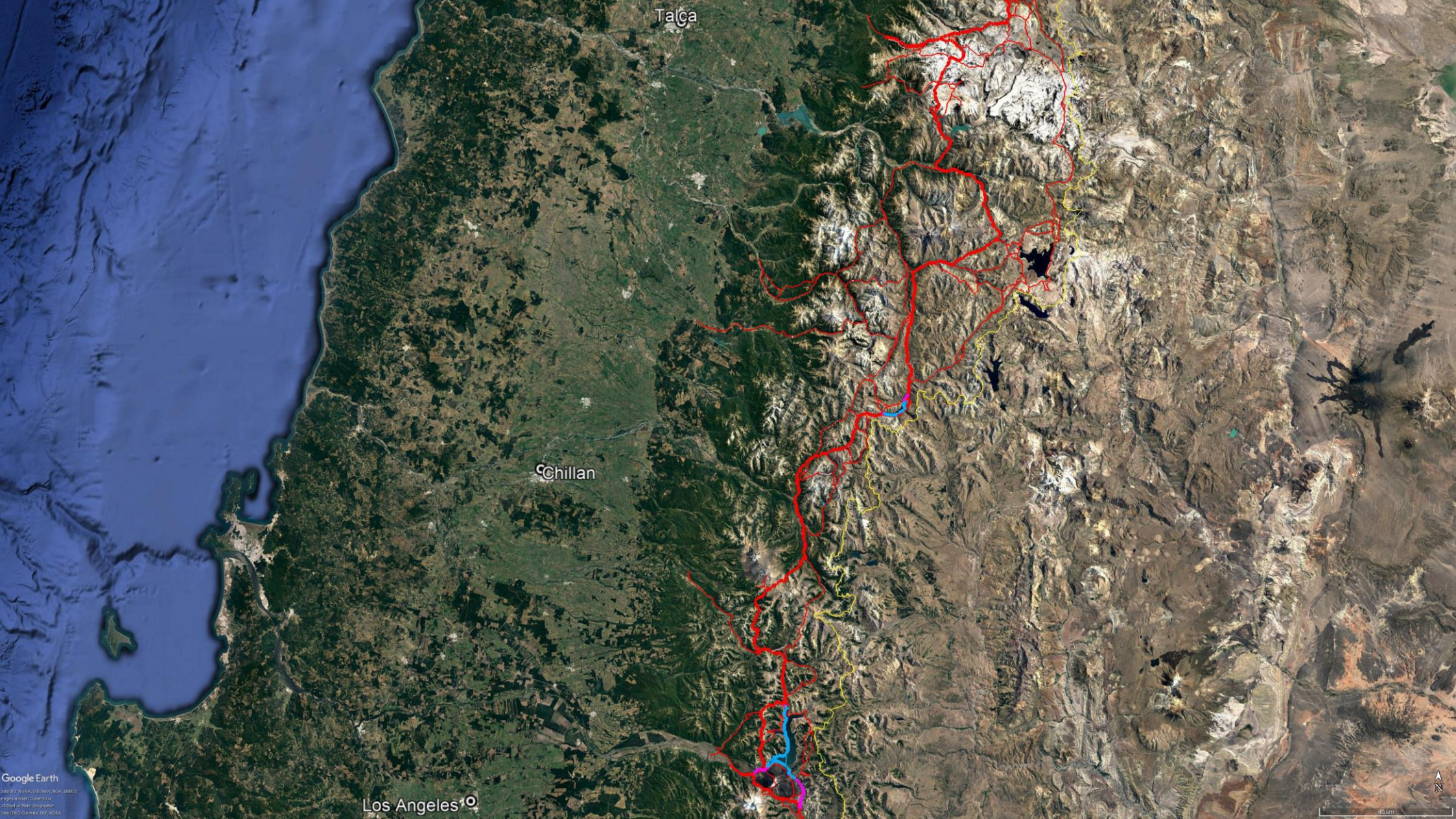
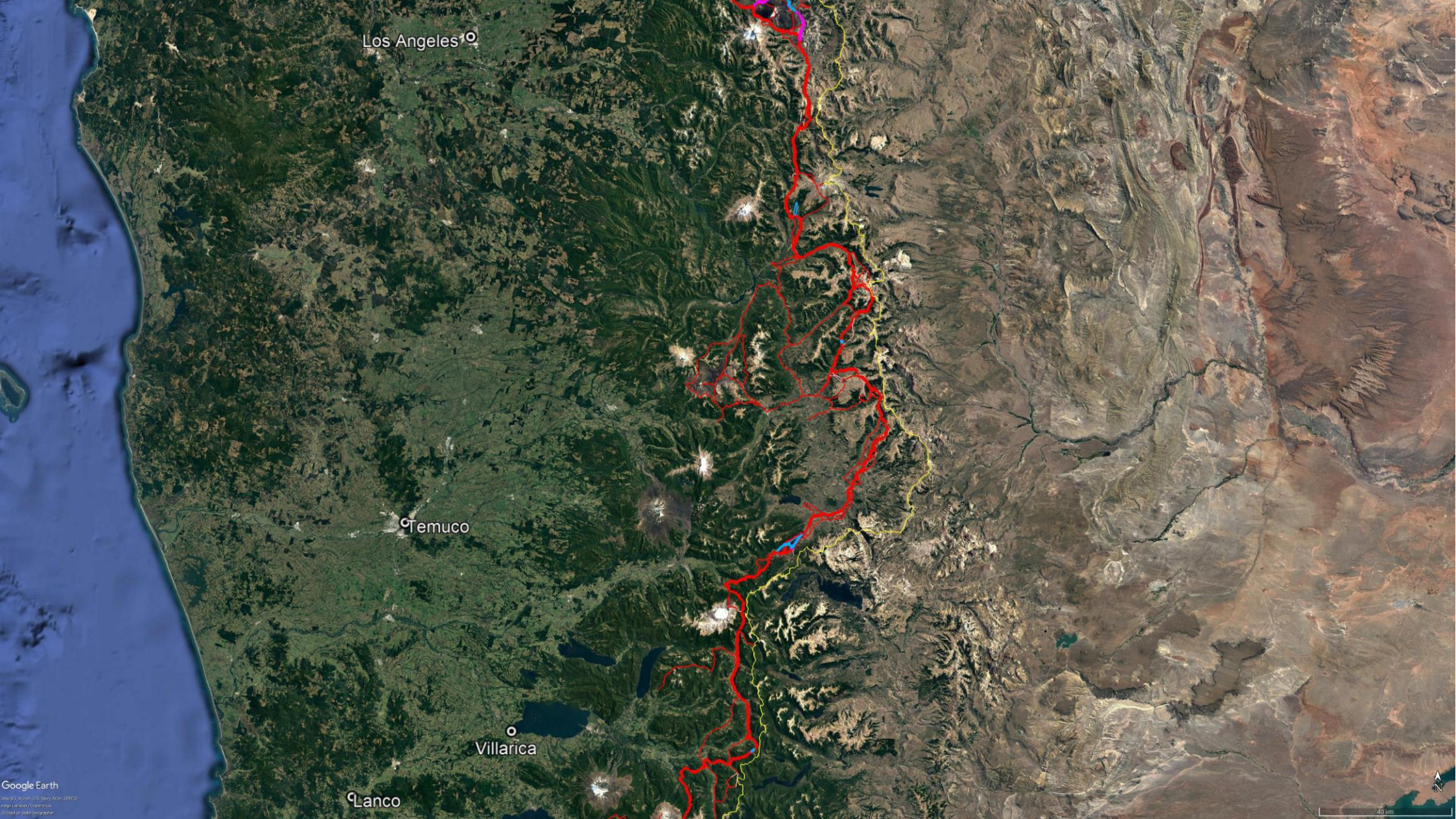


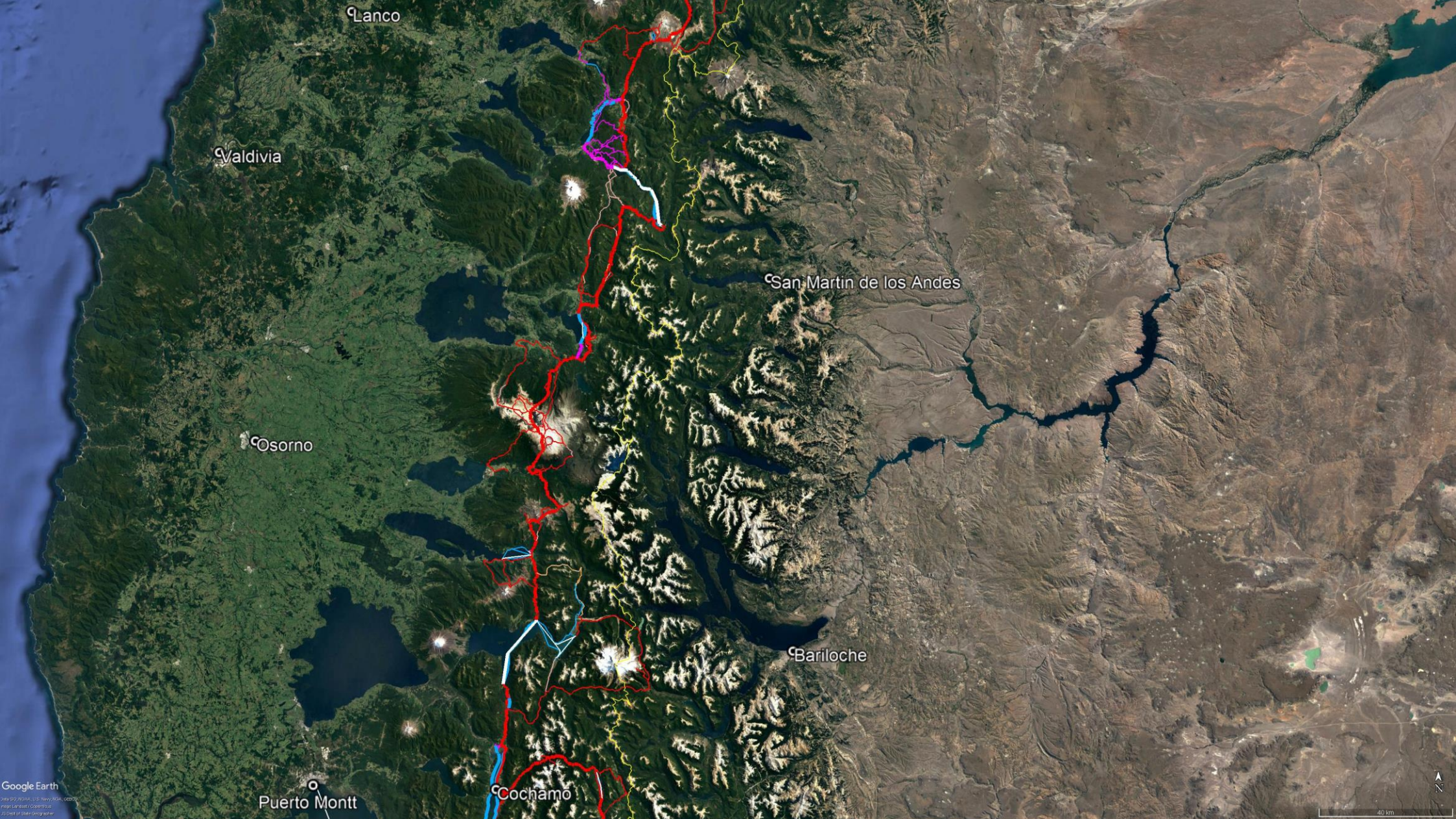
The Greater Patagonian Trail Hikers' Manual

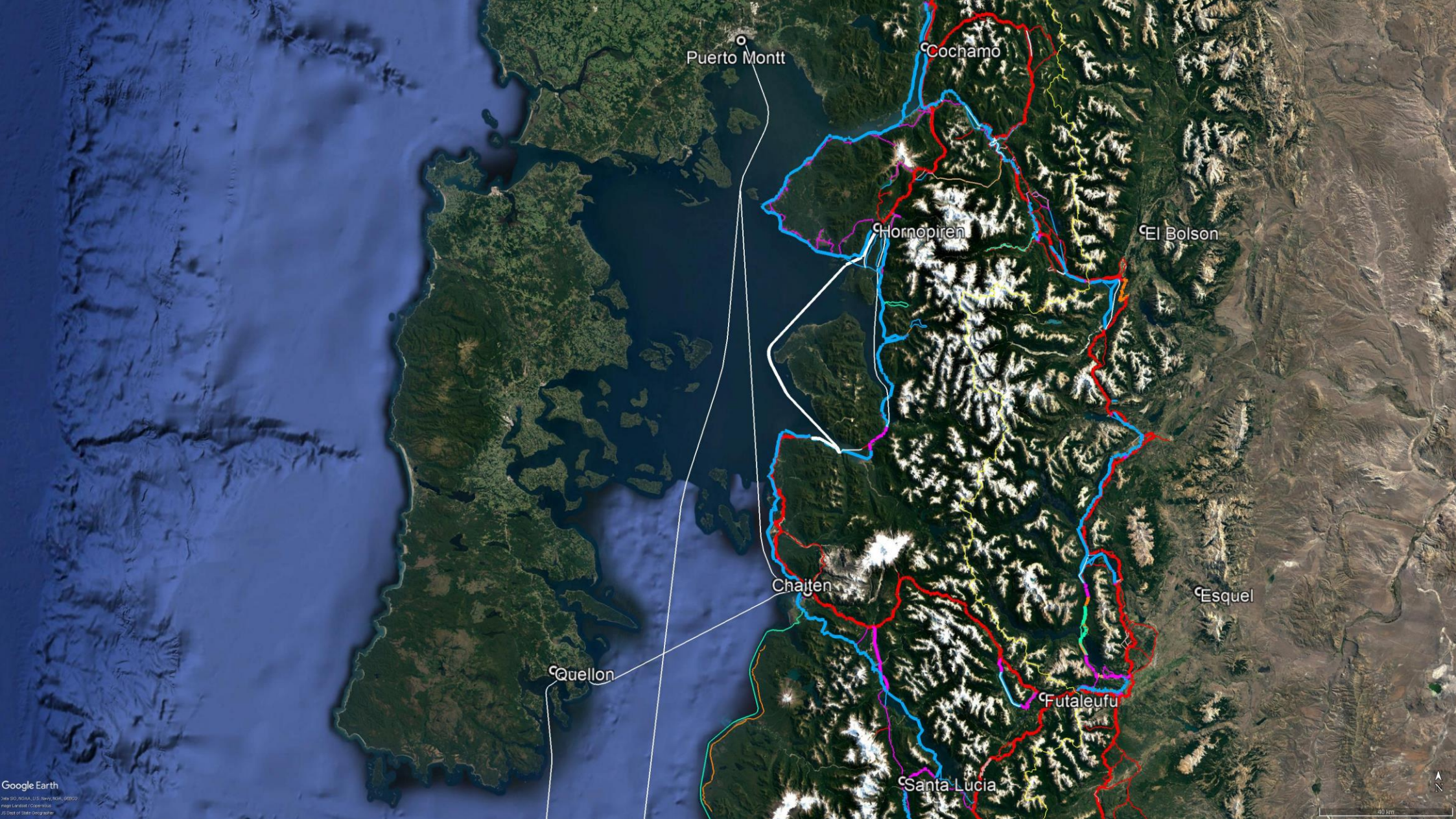
Jan Dudeck
2022-Aug-06


Santiago de Chile
Rancagua
Curico
Talca
Google Earth

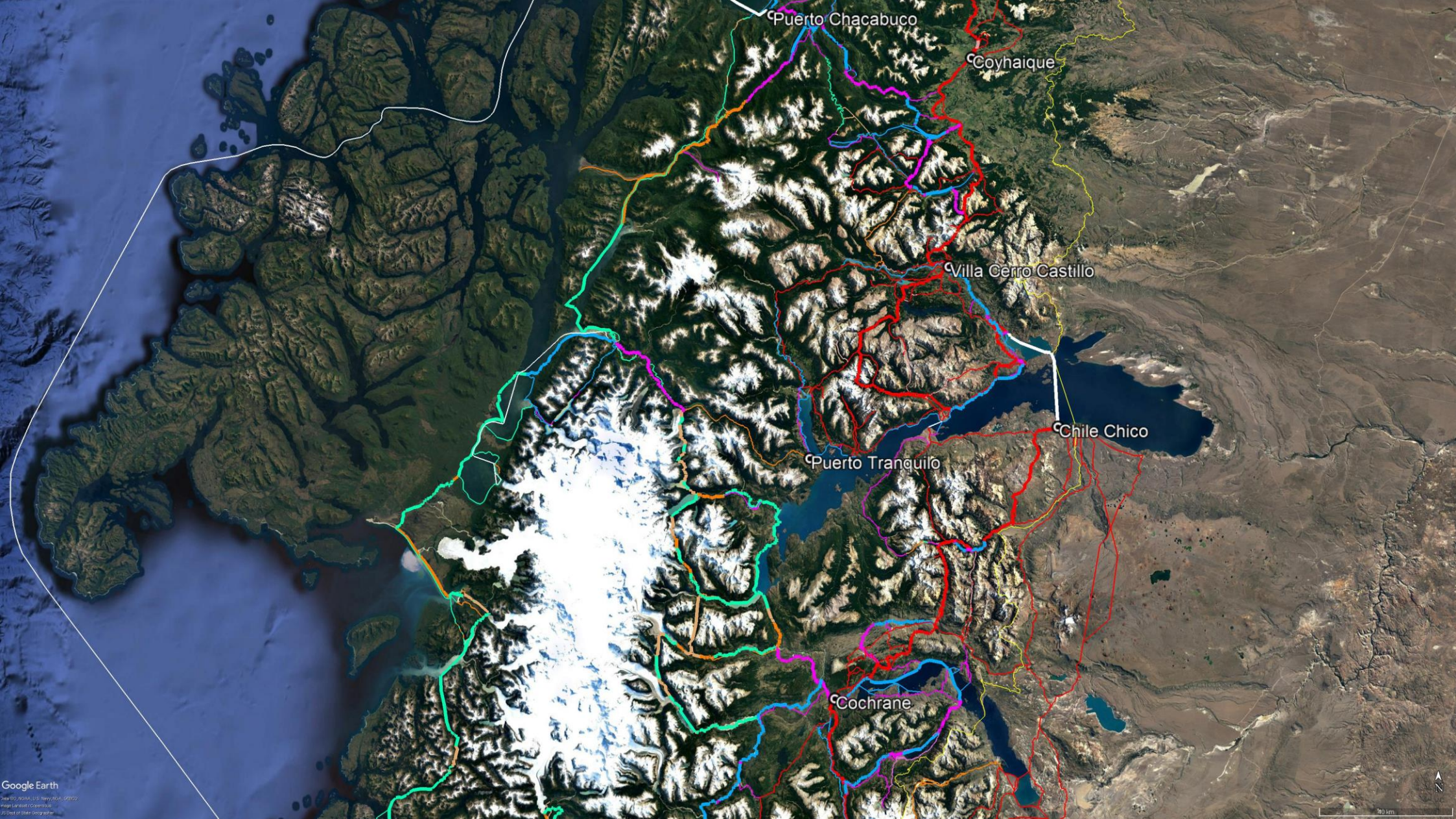

Talca
Chillan
Los Angeles
Google Earth
40 km
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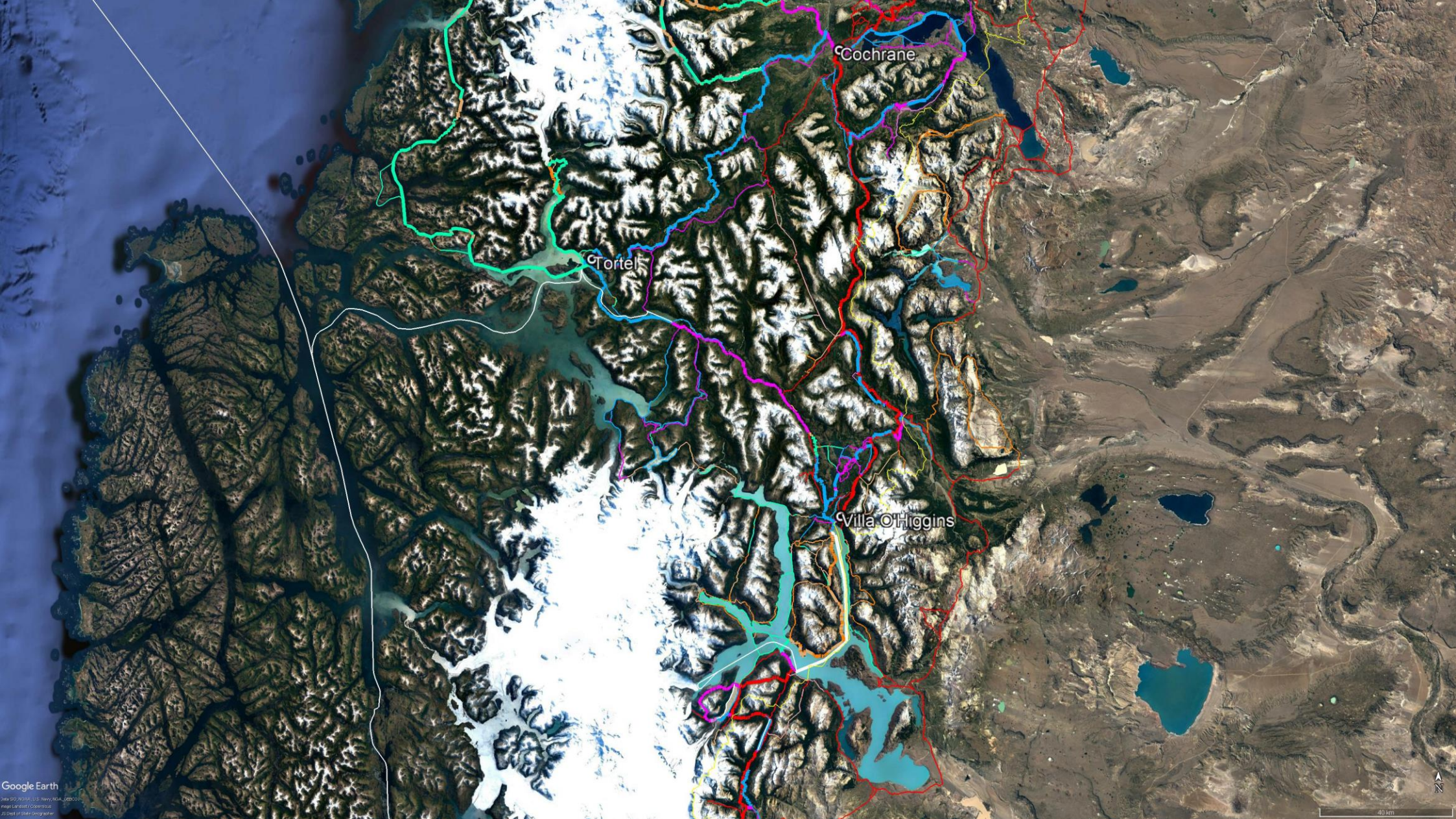

Los Angeles
Temuco
Villarica
Lanco
Google Earth

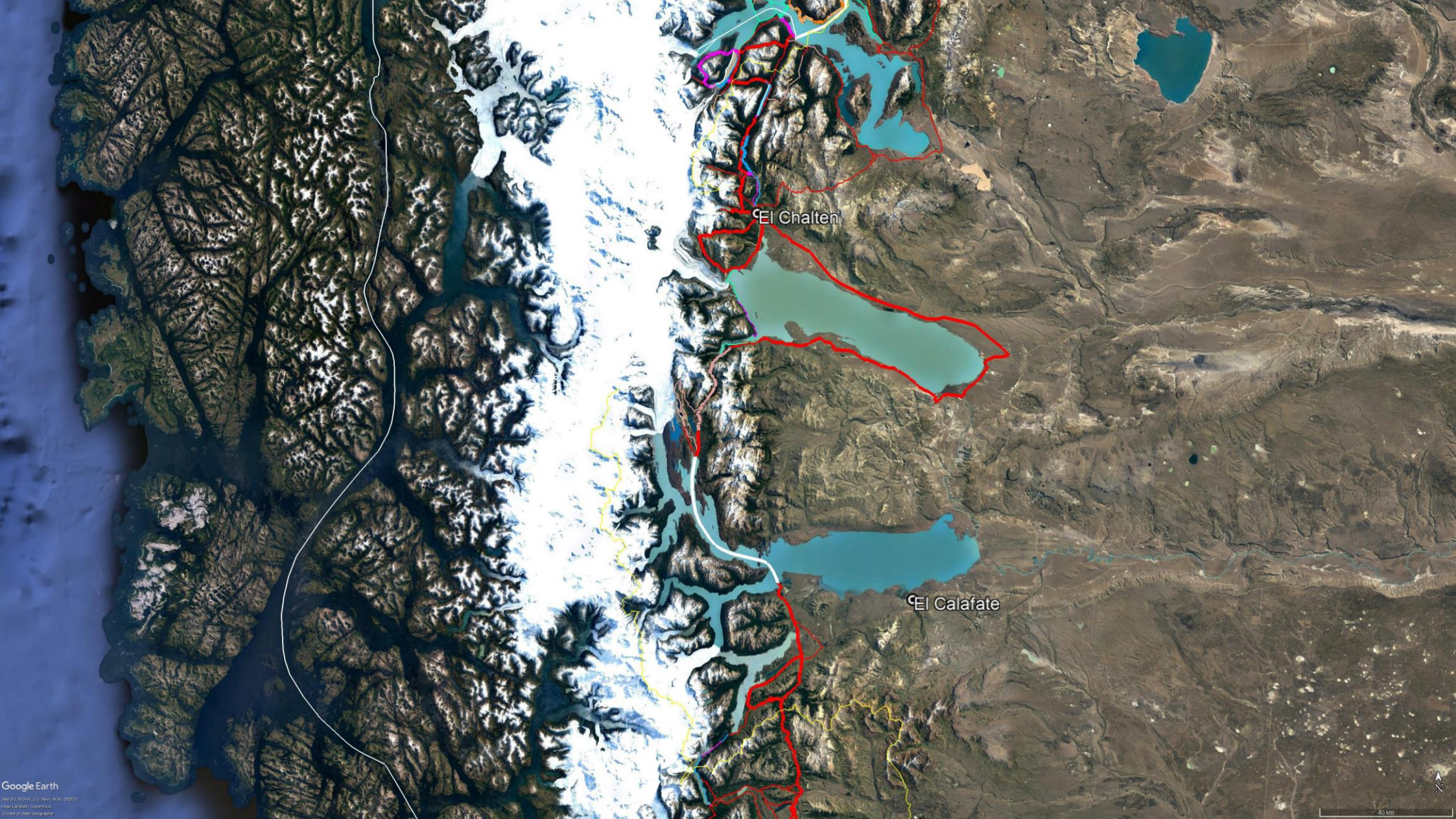

Lanco
Valdivia
San Martin de los Andes
Osorno
Bariloche
Puerto Montt
Cochamo
Google Earth
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40 km


Puerto Montt
Cochamo
Hornopiren
El Bolson
Chaiten
Esquel
Quellon
Futaleufu
Santa Lucia
Google Earth
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Santa Lucia
Palena
Raul Marin Balmaceda
La Junta
Lago Verde
Puerto Cisnes
Puerto Aysen
Puerto Chacabuco
Google Earth
N
40 km


Puerto Chacabuco
Coyhaique
Villa Cerro Castillo
Chile Chico
Puerto Tranquilo
Cochrane
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Cochrane
Tortel
Villa O'Higgins
Google Earth
N
40 km


El Chalten
El Calafate
Google Earth
N
40 km


Puerto Natales
Google Earth
N
40 km


Punta Arenas
Porvenir
Rio Grande
Ushuaia
Puerto Williams
Google Earth
N
50 km

The Greater Patagonian Trail and this documentation is not the creation of single person but grows with the contributions of many. These contributors shared their local expertise, researched new routes, consulted me in publishing the GPT and worked on this documentation. I'm grateful for the distinct contributions from the following collaborators:

Alexey Abramov, Bethany Hughes, Danilo Contreras, David Brophy, Estefania Chereguini, Federico Djeodjian, Felix Ossig-Bonanno, Garrett Martin, Gerald Klamer, Joaquin Barañao, Juan Pablo Marsiglia, Kara Davis, Lauren Reed, Lea Geibel, Linda Bortoletto, Martin Hurtado Izquierdo, Martin Lizondo, Marta Angarita, Masha Ovchinnikova, Matgorzata (Gosia) Gmerek, Matt Maynard, Michael Deckebach, Mikhail Bogdanov, Oliver Barker, Paul Bostelmann, Piia Kortsalo, Rosie Wiscombe, Sean Ziehm-Stephen, Tobias Hellwig, Tobias Schorcht, Walter Oszust

Many more advanced this endeavour by providing updates to tracks and waypoints, by sharing their trail experience with other hikers and more importantly: by leaving a positive trace in the hearts and minds of the people that live along this trail.

My special thanks goes to my wife and hiking partner Meylin Ubilla. Meylin was with me on every step and paddle stroke that set the foundation for this adventure network and whenever we struggled researching new routes Meylin was encouraging. And while I'm working on this trail documentation, she supports me with her amazing patience.

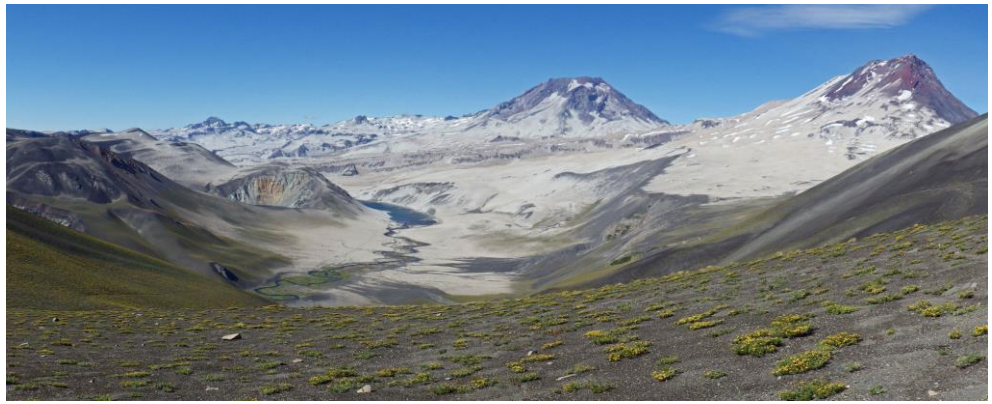
Jan Dudeck

Prologue

The Greater Patagonian Trail (GPT) is a long-distance route network in the southern Andes that spans from the outskirts of Santiago to the southern tip of the continent.

It’s a stunningly beautiful and diverse trail system that guides from the semi-desert of the *Precordillera* into scenic Andes valleys. The trails cross numerous dormant and active volcanos with partially healed volcanic scars and fresh open wounds from recent eruptions. Hikers can take a dip in more than a dozen hot springs along the way to draw from this energy.

Continuing south, hikers dive into the twilight of lush green temperate rainforest lined by snow covered mountains. Numerous passes and high plains go above the tree line into barren terrain with broad views. Crystal clear rivers descend from these mountains and feed deep blue lakes along the way. Packrafters can paddle over lakes and float down rivers all the way into the Patagonian fjords where the Pacific Ocean hits the ragged coast.



Picture 1: GPT06: The volcanos Descabezado Grande and Cerro Azul with the Laguna Caracol to their feet. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 2:GPT11: *Araucaria* trees in the *Pehuenche* homeland. Image: Jan Dudeck

Eventually hikers reach the Southern Patagonian Icefield, one of the world's largest extra-polar Icefields. Here giant rock towers stab into the sky and enormous glaciers calve colossal blocks of ice into wind battered lakes.



Picture 3: GPT19: Cross Country walking on volcanic ash at Cordon Caulle after recent eruption. Image: Jan Dudeck

On the northern part of the route hikers meet the solitary cowboys with their animals. Every spring the livestock is moved on higher ground to graze on mountain pastures. The trail later crosses the homeland of the indigenous *Pehuenche* (one of the *Mapuche* tribes) where majestic Araucaria trees tower above the tribal land and provide the traditional food for these sometimes shy and sometimes proud people. When going further south hikers meet the courageous settlers that have ventured into the challenging back-country of Patagonia. If proficient in Spanish, visitors may listen to their stories while sitting around the warm stove and sharing the traditional drink of this region: Mate. These authentic encounters are part of the beauty of this trail.

In countless locations the trail branches into different routes creating a wide network of tracks that offers many choices. Guest of the GPT may either walk the entire distance or bring a packraft to float down rivers and paddle and sail over lakes and fjords. There are also various volcanoes and other summits along the route that can be ascended without rock climbing gear. The route

network includes optional tracks that lead literally into the last valley on the border between Chile and Argentina. These remote corners of the southern Andes are of particular interest to hikers that love to venture into remote back-country.

The Main Route spans approximately 5'000 km and the entire route network including all options adds up to more than 20'000 km of tracks.

If this introduction quickened your appetite to explore this network of trails, then don't stop reading here and don't pack your backpack yet. The GPT is quite different from what you might expect. Especially if you have thru-hiked the famous long-distance trails in the US (i.e. the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail or the Continental Divide Trail), walked on the European pilgrimage trails (i.e. the Camino de Santiago) or in the Alps than don't assume that the GPT will be a similar experience and that you are already prepared for it. This region and this route network is unequal in nature. Some best practices and habits that are important on established trails in the US and Europe would be foolish in Patagonia. Other skills and aptitudes are essential to truly appreciate the Greater Patagonian Trail.

Since I started publishing the GPT, I consulted and surveyed more than one



Picture 4: GPT28: Packrafting the Río Palena. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 5: GPT38: Glaciar O'Higgins creeping down from the Southern Icefield. Image: Jan Dudeck

hundred people that attempted to walk major parts of the trail. The majority were absolutely amazed by the land, the people and their experience on the trail. But some hikers quickly aborted or changed their plans. In consequence they missed the best parts of the trail. Interestingly, some of these were experienced hikers and athletic walkers.

In Chapter 1 of this Manual, I try to rectify potential incorrect assumptions and outline the essentials for hiking and packrafting on this route network. You should also read the publications of other hikers and packrafters to learn from the diverse experiences on the Greater Patagonian Trail before drafting your plans.

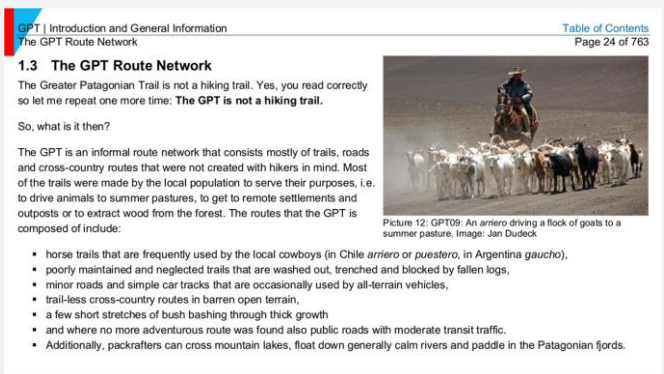


Picture 6: GPT19: Dormant Volcano Puyehue. Image: Jan Dudeck

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The GPT Route Network
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1.3 The GPT Route Network

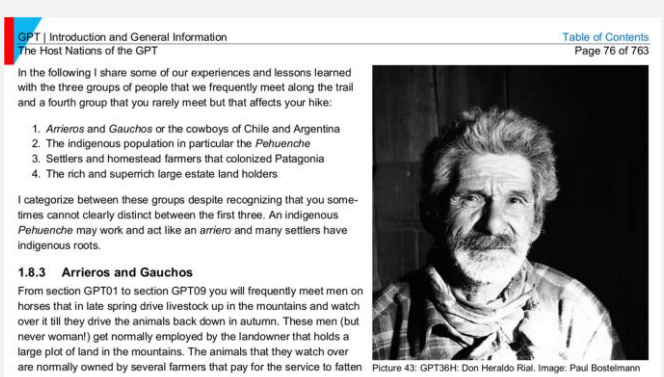
The Greater Patagonian Trail is not a hiking trail. Yes, you read correctly so let me repeat one more time: **The GPT is not a hiking trail.**

So, what is it then?

The GPT is an informal route network that consists mostly of trails, roads and cross-country routes that were not created with hikers in mind. Most of the trails were made by the local population to serve their purposes, i.e. to drive animals to summer pastures, to get to remote settlements and outposts or to extract wood from the forest. The routes that the GPT is composed of include:

Picture 12: GPT09: An *arriero* driving a flock of goats to a summer pasture. Image: Jan Dudeck

- horse trails that are frequently used by the local cowboys (in Chile *arriero* or *puestero*, in Argentina *gaucho*),
- poorly maintained and neglected trails that are washed out, trenched and blocked by fallen logs,
- minor roads and simple car tracks that are occasionally used by all-terrain vehicles,
- trail-less cross-country routes in barren open terrain,
- a few short stretches of bush bashing through thick growth
- and where no more adventurous route was found also public roads with moderate transit traffic.
- Additionally, packrafters can cross mountain lakes, float down generally calm rivers and paddle in the Patagonian fjords.


GPT | Introduction and General Information
The Host Nations of the GPT
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In the following I share some of our experiences and lessons learned with the three groups of people that we frequently meet along the trail and a fourth group that you rarely meet but that affects your hike:

1. *Arrieros* and *Gauchos* or the cowboys of Chile and Argentina
2. The indigenous population in particular the *Pehuenche*
3. Settlers and homestead farmers that colonized Patagonia
4. The rich and superrich large estate land holders

I categorize between these groups despite recognizing that you sometimes cannot clearly distinct between the first three. An indigenous *Pehuenche* may work and act like an *arriero* and many settlers have indigenous roots.

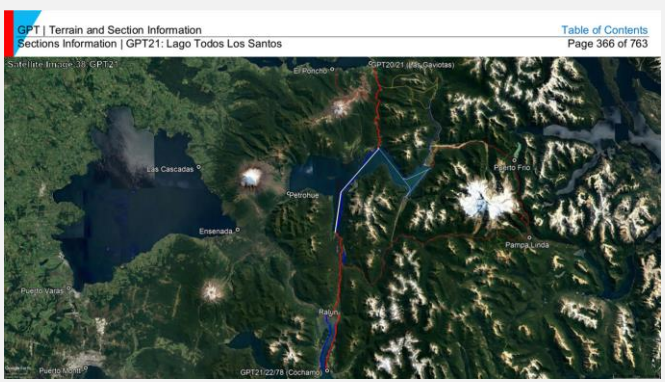
1.8.3 Arrieros and Gauchos

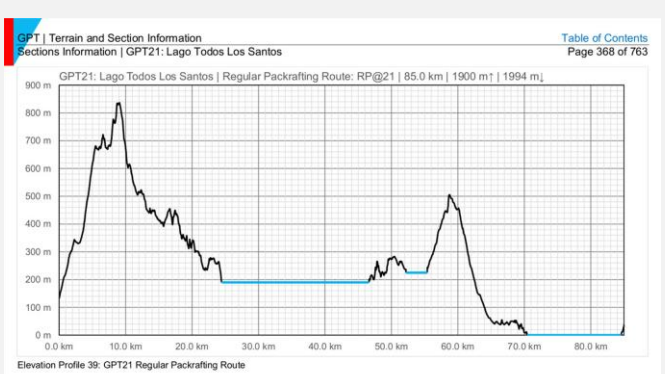
From section GPT01 to section GPT09 you will frequently meet men on horses that in late spring drive livestock up in the mountains and watch over it till they drive the animals back down in autumn. These men (but never woman!) get normally employed by the landowner that holds a large plot of land in the mountains. The animals that they watch over are normally owned by several farmers that pay for the service to fatten

Picture 43: GPT36H: Don Heraldo Rial. Image: Paul Bostelmann

Chapter 2 Terrain and Section Information

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Sections Information | GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos
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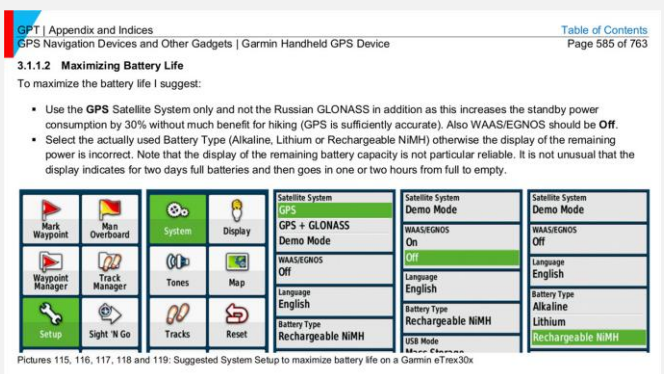

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GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos | Regular Packrafting Route: RP@21 | 85.0 km | 1900 m↑ | 1994 m↓

Elevation Profile 39: GPT21 Regular Packrafting Route

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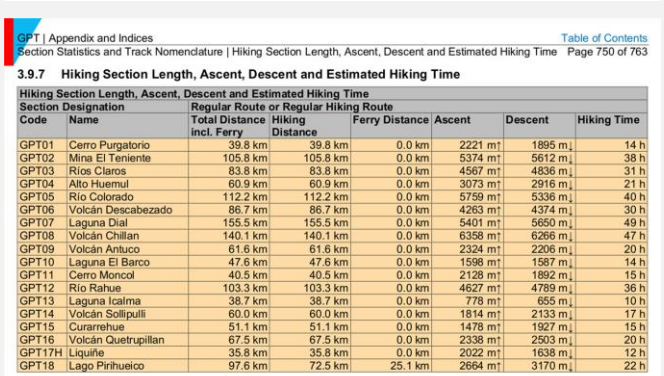

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3.1.1.2 Maximizing Battery Life

To maximize the battery life I suggest:

- Use the **GPS** Satellite System only and not the Russian GLONASS in addition as this increases the standby power consumption by 30% without much benefit for hiking (GPS is sufficiently accurate). Also WAAS/EGNOS should be **Off**.
- Select the actually used Battery Type (Alkaline, Lithium or Rechargeable NiMH) otherwise the display of the remaining power is incorrect. Note that the display of the remaining battery capacity is not particular reliable. It is not unusual that the display indicates for two days full batteries and then goes in one or two hours from full to empty.

Pictures 115, 116, 117, 118 and 119: Suggested System Setup to maximize battery life on a Garmin eTrex30x


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3.9.7 Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time						
Section Designation		Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route				
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Hiking Time
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.8 km	39.8 km	0.0 km	2221 m↑	1895 m↓	14 h
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	105.8 km	105.8 km	0.0 km	5374 m↑	5612 m↓	38 h
GPT03	Ríos Claros	83.8 km	83.8 km	0.0 km	4567 m↑	4836 m↓	31 h
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.9 km	60.9 km	0.0 km	3073 m↑	2916 m↓	21 h
GPT05	Río Colorado	112.2 km	112.2 km	0.0 km	5759 m↑	5336 m↓	40 h
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	86.7 km	86.7 km	0.0 km	4263 m↑	4374 m↓	30 h
GPT07	Laguna Dial	155.5 km	155.5 km	0.0 km	5401 m↑	5650 m↓	49 h
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	140.1 km	140.1 km	0.0 km	6358 m↑	6266 m↓	47 h
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	61.6 km	61.6 km	0.0 km	2324 m↑	2206 m↓	20 h
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	47.6 km	47.6 km	0.0 km	1598 m↑	1587 m↓	14 h
GPT11	Cerro Moncol	40.5 km	40.5 km	0.0 km	2128 m↑	1892 m↓	15 h
GPT12	Río Rahue	103.3 km	103.3 km	0.0 km	4627 m↑	4789 m↓	36 h
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	38.7 km	38.7 km	0.0 km	778 m↑	655 m↓	10 h
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	60.0 km	60.0 km	0.0 km	1814 m↑	2133 m↓	17 h
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.1 km	51.1 km	0.0 km	1478 m↑	1927 m↓	15 h
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	67.5 km	67.5 km	0.0 km	2338 m↑	2503 m↓	20 h
GPT17H	Liquiñe	35.8 km	35.8 km	0.0 km	2022 m↑	1638 m↓	12 h
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	97.6 km	72.5 km	25.1 km	2664 m↑	3170 m↓	22 h

1 Introduction and General Information

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1.1 Statements about the GPT by Hikers and Packrafters

Bethany Hughes and **Lauren Reed** (Fidgit and Neon): "This trail has been the most punishing and the most magical experience of my hiking career to date."

Burkhard Rose: "To walk the Greater Patagonian trial was one of the best thinks in my live. Every day I enjoyed the wonderful, all the time changing landscape. (...) The volcano areas where the most impressive parts for me!"

Piia Kortsalo and **Oliver Barker**: "We're filled with incredible memories of our time on the GPT, and the landscape and culture of the Chilean Andes will stay with us forever. While hiking the GPT was an incredible experience for us, we don't imagine this as the right trail for everyone. The GPT is closer to an idea of a route than an established trail; hikers setting out expecting a well-organized, continuous, marked hiking trail will inevitably be disappointed. The GPT really is a route for a very specific sort of hiker, one who's as interested in natural history and cultural experience as they are in trail miles."

Brian Tanzman (Buck-30): "Honestly, I wouldn't recommend hiking the GPT to any of my thru hiking friends."



Picture 7: GPT11: Burkhard Rose crossing the rocky ridge Las Monjas. Image: Burkhard Rose

Garrett Martin: "This trail is unlike any other trail in the world and requires detailed planning, determination, physical and mental strength and most importantly - respect for the people and environment along the trail. Throughout our 4-month journey, we discovered the beauty of the Andes Mountain range and the incredibly generous people that call this place their home. If you are considering hiking the GPT, please do so with extreme care for the land and the utmost respect for the locals living in this area.".

Carla Lange: "The GPT is not a hiking trail, it's an adventure and words do not do my experience on it justice. Travelling on the GPT was everything but easy (or necessarily fun all the time) but it returned it all and more. Essential pieces of equipment to bring on the GPT are your brain and intuition as well as humbleness, respect and openness for the land and people."

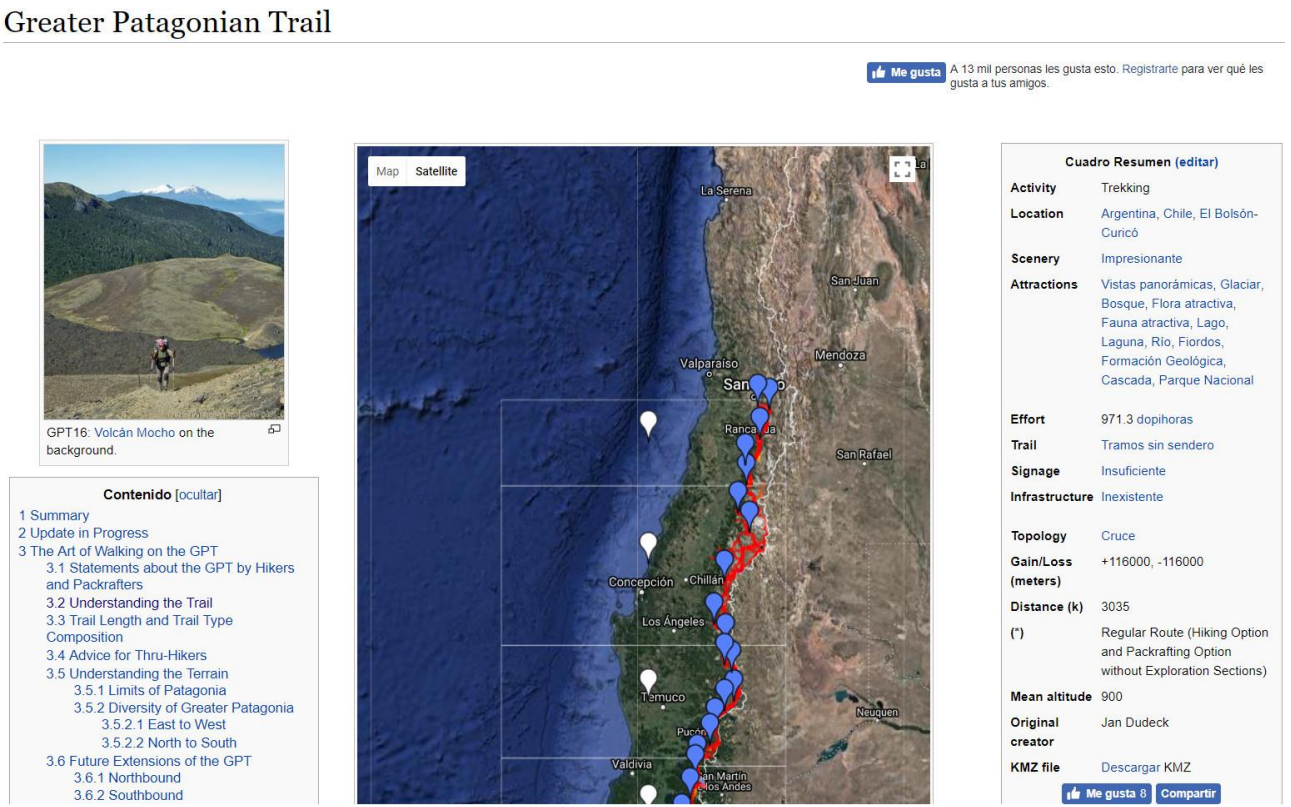
Matgorzata (Gosia) Gmerek and **Paul Bostelmann**: “The Greater Patagonian Trail Network is a challenging and rewarding adventure that leads one through diverse and breath-taking scenery. Far from crowds and often without seeing other people for days this experience was without a doubt the highlight of our hiking career. Packrafting and exploring the beautiful lakes and rivers allows to reach even deeper into these wonderful and wild ecosystems. This is no ordinary hike and absolute self-reliance and wilderness experience is a must.”

1.2 Information to the GPT

The GPT is an informal route network therefore you will not find any “official” information. In the following I list all relevant resources that help to understand the GPT and to get prepared for an adventure on this trail system.

1.2.1 The Wikiexplora GPT Main Article

The Wikiexplora article to the GPT is the internet gateway to this trail system. It is the first semi-official landing point for anyone searching information online and provides an introduction to the GPT. Wikiexplora is the cradle where the GPT publication started in 2014 and remains the “online home”.

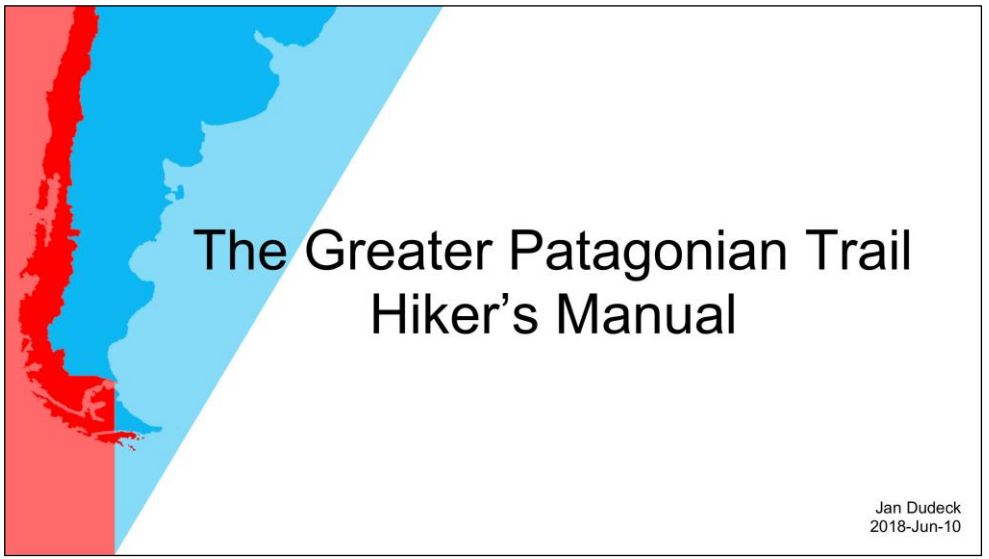


Picture 8: GPT article on Wikiexplora

The Wikiexplora article comes with one weakness: offline access while being on the GPT. Therefore, the GPT Hikers’ Manual was created in 2017. With this, the Wikiexplora GPT main article is now neither the only nor the best resource to get ready for an adventure on the GPT but the Wikiexplora articles provides an introduction to anyone “just browsing around”. And the Wikiexplora article gives access to this Hikers’ Manual.

1.2.2 The GPT Hikers' Manual

This Hikers' Manual is the primary source of information for the GPT and can be downloaded free of charge at: http://bit.ly/GPTmanual.



Picture 9: GPT Hikers' Manual

The Hikers' Manual consists of three parts:
Error! Reference source not found. Introduction and General Information,
2 Terrain and Section Information and
3 Appendix and Indices.

Chapter 1 provides a general overview and a good understanding of the nature of the GPT. You should read the entire chapter 1 thoroughly if you consider hiking on this route network because this part of the Hikers' Manual guides you through your preparation.

Chapter 2 familiarizes you with the geography of the southern Andes and describes each section of the GPT. This local knowledge is essential to thoughtfully select your route on this vast network and to prepare yourself for each section while hiking. Therefore, parts of chapter 2 are important during the preparation phase while other parts will become your guide when hiking on the GPT.

Chapter 3 goes deep into specific topics. You will require this expertise for specific tasks e.g. when setting up your GPS or when calculating distances and estimating travel times. The Appendix also contains valuable additional information that contribute to a

profound understanding of the GPT and the region.

The Hikers' Manual is not available on paper but only as a PDF document. It is designed to be read on a computer or on a smartphone while being online or offline. Therefore, it is issued in the screen-friendly 9:16 page format. When reading this document it is best to use full screen slide mode in landscape orientation. Normal vertical scrolling is less practical. Install a suitable app on your smartphone if needed.

To navigate within the Hikers' Manual, click on the blue links in example the "Table of Contents" link in the upper right corner to jump directly to the main directory on page 18. From there you can jump in two steps to any chapter in this document. These blue document internal links work offline. Hyperlinks to resources on the internet are also blue but have a globe sign after the link. Such internet hyperlinks obviously open only while being connected to the internet.

The Greater Patagonian Trail is an informal trail network that grows and changes regularly. And creating and updating the documentation to this evolving trail network relies on voluntary work only. Therefore, this Hikers' Manual is not expected to be completed in the foreseeable future and will remain a growing and evolving document. This unfinished nature has been made intentionally visible by displaying empty chapters with red "To be issued." remarks and similar comments in red. This shows what topics are planned to be covered with future updates and where contributions and reviews are welcome.

Updates and additions to chapter 1 and chapter 3 are made first in the Hikers' Manual and not simultaneously copied to the Wikiexplora main article. Therefore, the last published version of the Hikers' Manual is the most current and comprehensive document available of the GPT. Note the publish date on the cover page in the bottom right corner and check occasionally for updates

that are also advertised on the Facebook group.

1.2.3 The Wikiexplora GPT Section Articles

The GPT route network (with currently more than 20’000 km of tracks) is divided into approx. 90 sections. Collecting and updating all essential information to all these sections can’t impossibly be done by a single author but requires the continuous collaboration of the community. To enable such a collaboration one Wikiexplora article was created for each section of the GPT. These wikies collect all the section specific information and are open for edits and additions by all GPT hikers. So hikers that enjoy writing can become a co-author by editing the section descriptions after their return from the GPT.

The informal and unpredictable nature of the GPT makes it also relevant that hikers quickly exchange updates and advices while travelling on this evolving route network. This can be information to temporary unpassable trail sections, volcano alerts, river conditions or anything that makes you think in hindsight: “I should have known this before!”. In the Wikiexplora section articles, hikers can post such alerts and advices. Additionally, hikers can provide any other beneficial information and suggestion that is not yet included in the section description.

It is my intention to transfer the updated section information into the Hikers’ Manual before the start of each season to make this information available offline (chapter 2.5 Sections with the section documentations). But all hikers are advised the check the corresponding Wikiexplora GPT section articles before starting a section to read the latest updates and alerts of fellow hikers.

To promote an active collaboration, all GPT hikers must sign up in Wikiexplora in order to get access to the GPT track files.

1.2.4 The GPT Track Files

The Greater Patagonian Trail is composed of existing routes that were mainly made by the local settlers to serve their purposes. Hikers are unexpected guests on many of these trails. Only smaller parts of these routes have some kind of trail markers.

A good part the trails and cross-country routes remained undocumented until recorded and published digitally for the GPT. Therefore, suitable paper maps are often not available, and the few existing maps are inconsistent, of variable quality and insufficient to follow major parts the GPT.

The only reliable way to navigate on the GPT is therefore a GPS with the digital track and waypoint documentation that was specifically created for the GPT**.** This digital documentation with the relevant geographic information consists of multiple files in different file types and is called in the following “GPT Track and Waypoint Documentation” or in short “Track Files”.

Hikers that feel uncomfortable being guided by a GPS need to learn and adapt to this form of navigation or discard the idea of hiking the Greater Patagonian Trail. Such hikers may resort to the established public trails in Patagonia that are better signposted and more suitable for classic navigation with paper maps (see chapter 3.5.1 Alternative Hiking Areas in Patagonia on page 1162).

The track files are provided on personal request by the author free of charge but not unconditionally. Read chapter 1.14 Code of Conduct on the GPT on page 304 and 1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hikers’ Manual and the Track Files on page 307 to review these conditions and to understand why they were put in place. Should you agree all Terms and Conditions, follow the instructions of chapter 1.15.7 Access to the GPT Track Files on page 316. I will than provide a link where you can download the track files.

The various track files are packed in a single zip-file that is password protected. The password to unpack the zip-file is a 7-digit number. There are two ways to obtain the password.

Option 1: Calculate the password yourself! To do this, read part 1 of this Hikers' Manual (Chapter 1: Introduction and General Information from page 19 to 317) and record the seven Track File Unlock Codes that are all placed in selected key chapters. The Track File Unlock Code 8 becomes visible when signing up in Wikiexplora and adding yourself to the GPT track file request list (is in the comment right under "List of requests" that becomes only visible in edit mode). Each unlock code is a random 6-digit number. The sum of all eight unlock codes is the password to open the zip-file with the track files. To show how these unlock codes look I'm providing here the first of the eight codes: Track File Unlock Code 1: 823547. Note this number and keep reading chapter 1 to record the remaining six codes.

Option 2: Alternatively, print, read, complete and sign the Declaration of Consent. If going for this option, then please state your reasons for not taking Option 1 and send a scanned copy of the filled and signed form by email when requesting access to the track files. Also see chapter 1.15.7 Access to the GPT Track Files on page 316 and 3.3.3.2 Obtaining and Opening the Track Files on page 1090.

With this method I want to ensure that the most essential aspects of this route network are understood and that the Terms and Conditions are formally accepted. Opening an account on Wikiexplora also ensures that all hikers and packrafters are setup to provide feedbacks on Wikiexplora.

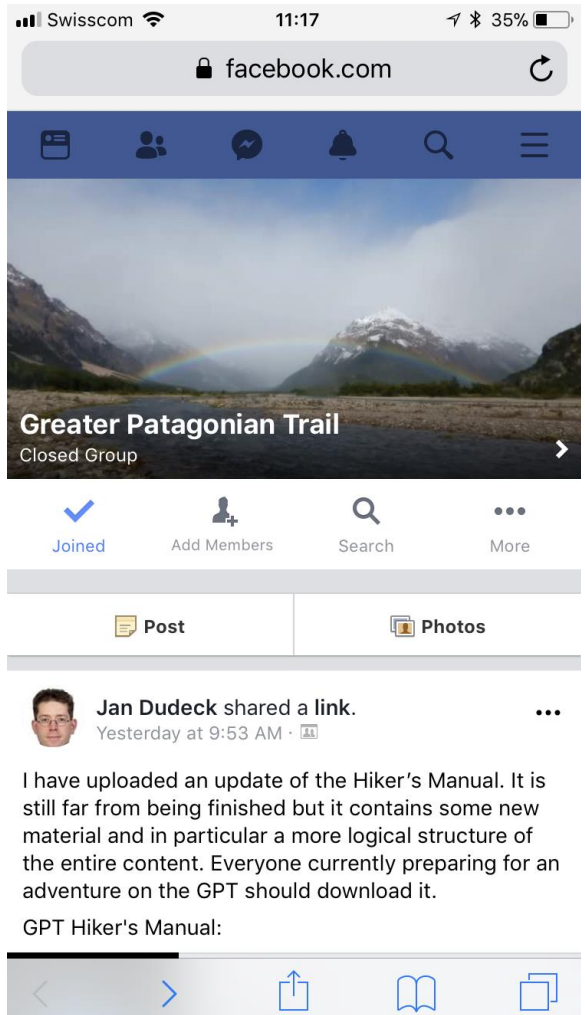
1.2.5 The GPT Facebook Group

The GPT Facebook Group is a communication platform for past, present and prospective GPT adventurers. Here all hikers can announce their intended plans, seek other hikers to form small groups, post brief summaries after completing a section or simply ask questions.

And what is more important: use the Facebook group to alert other hikers after running into a problem that may also affect others. Do this by first adding your description and suggestions to the relevant Wikiexplora GPT section article. Then either duplicate this information in the Facebook group or simply refer and link to your update in the Wikiexplora article[1].

The GPT Facebook Group is also the location where I now notify hikers when a new version of the Hikers' Manual is published, when updated track files are available and where I share other news regarding the GPT.

To become member of the GPT Facebook Group you need a Facebook account and request access.



Picture 10: GPT Facebook Group

[1] A Facebook group is not suitable to collect alerts and important information as posts quickly disappear under newer posts. Also not all hikers have or actively use a Facebook account. A wiki is therefore more suitable organize and publish such content.

1.2.6 Publications to the GPT by other Hikers and Packrafters

With this Hikers' Manual and the article on Wikiexplora I aim to create a systematic introduction and comprehensive documentation of the GPT. I intentionally try not to overload these documents with personal stories from the trail.

There is another reason why my writing is rather technical. I'm an Engineer by trade, I work as an inspector and issue inspection reports on a regular base. For this I need to carefully choose my words to be factual and precise but also legally sound. Story-telling is neither needed nor welcome in my inspection reports. When numbers are available or when information can be structured into tables or charts than this is always preferred over well phrased verbal descriptions. You will notice these writing habits in the Hikers' Manual and the Wikiexplora article.

Keeping my personal stories mostly out and maintaining this documentation rather technical benefits a systematic preparation but makes the Hikers' Manual and the article on Wikiexplora a bit bland. But for most hikers, and this includes me, the personal experience of the land and with the people are the dominating motives for such an endeavour. To tap on more personal experiences during your preparation watch some videos and read some blogs that were issued by GPT hikers in recent years. In these publications you find the diverse individual perceptions of the GPT. Some blogs openly describe mishaps and lessons learned and hopefully help other in avoiding the same mistakes.

In the chapters 3.7 Distinct Contributors on page 1190 and 3.8 Publications to the GPT on page 1205 I collected links to videos and blogs that I consider particularly useful.

1.2.7 The Feature Film “Unbounded”

In the hiking season 2016/17 four novice hikers from North America and Europe walked parts of GPT to create a travel documentary. The result of this endeavour is the 74-minute feature documentary “Unbounded” by Garrett Martin. This work of art displays fascinating impressions from the trail and highlights their cultural experience with the settlers and the natives along the route.



Picture 11: Feature Film “Unbounded”

I recommend watching this film to all prospective hikers as part of their preparation. You can download or stream this film from iTunes, Amazon or Vimeo.

This film focuses on the individual experience of these four hikers and does not aim to provide a comprehensive introduction to the GPT. Starting under-prepared and over-loaded they learned their lessons and gradually adapted to this challenging trail network. To draw the right conclusions for your hike read my comments to this film either before or, even better, after watching.

1.3 The GPT Route Network

The Greater Patagonian Trail is not a hiking trail. Yes, you read correctly so let me repeat one more time: **The GPT is not a hiking trail.**

So, what is it then?

The GPT is an informal route network that consists mostly of trails, roads and cross-country routes that were not created with hikers in mind. Most of the trails were made by the local population to serve their purposes, in example to drive animals to summer pastures, to get to remote settlements and outposts or to extract wood from the forest. The routes that the GPT is composed of include:



Picture 12: GPT09: An *arriero* driving a flock of goats to a summer pasture. Image: Jan Dudeck

- horse trails that are be frequently used by the local cowboys (in Chile *arriero*, in Argentina *gaucho*) or that became neglected, are washed out, trenched and blocked by fallen logs,
- minor roads and simple car tracks that are occasionally used by all-terrain vehicles,
- trail-less cross country routes in barren open terrain,
- a few short stretches of bush bashing through thick growth,
- and where no more adventurous route was found also public roads with moderate transit traffic.
- Occasionally, a ferry or boat transfer will be required to cross a river, a lake or to travel the Patagonian fjords.

- Additionally, packrafters can cross mountain lakes, float down generally calm rivers and paddle in the Patagonian fjords.

This diversity makes the GPT so authentic but also inconsistent and in parts challenging.

Since the GPT is an informal route network, few signposts and trail markers facilitate route finding and none of these signs and markers refer to the GPT. The national parks contain some marked trails, though these signs are often unmaintained and inconsistent. Outside of parks you may sporadically see chopped off bark, sun faded strips of plastic, beer cans or even cattle skulls hanging in a tree. That's no vandalism or littering but how locals occasionally mark a route. But the landlords that regularly use these trails rarely need signposts as they know their trails inside-out and nobody else is expected to come.

On many of these trails a customary right-of-way applies but some routes cross private land and you often can't distinguish the difference. Therefore, when you venture onto the GPT you are mostly an unexpected guest on trails that were not made for you, and you will trespass over private property. So be at least a respectful and friendly trespasser that can explain in Spanish what you are doing there.

Unlike many long-distance hiking trails, the GPT is not a single-line trail but a wide route network with countless options. When hiking on the GPT you have the privilege and task



Picture 13: GPT36H: Poorly maintained horse trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

of composing your own personal route by making your choices along the way. This makes every hike on the GPT a unique and incomparable experience. The number of options becomes evident when comparing the length of the Main Route (approximately 5’000 km) with the total length of all tracks (more than 20’000 km). [2]

The GPT route network starts in the outskirts of the Chilean capital Santiago de Chile and reaches all the way to Tierra del Fuego and Isla Navarino on the southern tip of the continent. The actual length that someone may walk and paddle on the GPT depends highly on the chosen route, the start and the finish point and the method of travel (hiking or packrafting).

The GPT is not a trail that can be hiked efficiently. The trail will change your plans without asking and inevitably stop you from time to time or even turn you around. Also, the period of suitable hiking weather is in parts quite short.



Picture 14: GPT22: Discussing route options with settlers on the trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

[2] Between publishing the GPT in 2014 and 2020 I’m not aware of two hikers (or teams of hikers) that opted for the same route combination.



Picture 15: GPT07: Chatting and cooking with *arrieros* or *puesteros* in their *puesto.* Image: Meylin Ubilla

Some sections become traversable in December or January after most snow has molten and the rivers calmed down and can be forded safely. In late March or during April fierce snowstorms may make the route impassable again.

The recommended pace on this route network is the "appreciation pace". This pace gives you the time to make an attractive detour, in example to climb a summit next to the trail without worrying about your schedule. This adequate rate of advance permits you to accept the invitation of a *poblador* (settler) to share some cups of mate or to sit out a day of torrential rain in a *puesto* (improvised shelter) with an *arriero* (Chilean cowboy, also called *puestero*). This adaptable pace permits you to wait in front of a pass if the weather is too volatile or to spend a day or two waiting at a lake if it is too windy to paddle with your packraft.

This trail is therefore not suitable for hikers who are out to race a clock, or those that need full control and measure their success in kilometers or miles. It's for hikers for whom completion is irrelevant, and instead count their enjoyable and eventful days in a pristine and diverse environment. It’s a trail for thoughtful discoverers who can accept being guests and not dominators.

All this makes the GPT a discovery network with a good portion of unpredictability but an impressive authenticity.

To learn more on this subject from other hikers read what Piia & Oliver and Bethany & Lauren conclude after their hike.



Picture 16: GPT28P: Reaching the fjord Pitipalena at low tide. Image: Jan Dudeck

The GPT is divided into approx. 90 sections. Each section starts and ends at a road or a village with public transportation and links seamlessly to adjacent sections. Therefore, each section can be hiked individually, or several sections can be combined into a longer journey.

Most sections are between 40 km and 200 km long, offer no (or only limited) resupply choices en route and only few sections have optional exit routes to bail out of a section halfway. Therefore, most sections must be hiked from end-to-end without resupplying, making them the primary units for composing your hike and planning your resupply.

Each section has a section code to facilitate referencing specific sections. The section code consists of the abbreviation **GPT** and a two-digit running number (**01** to **92**). Where the hiking option and the packrafting option take completely different routes, each option forms an individual section with the same running number but the letter **H** (**H**iking) or **P** (**P**ackrafting) is added to distinguish



Picture 17: Regular Routes. Image: GPSVisualizer.com

between the hiking and the packrafting version. In addition to this code, each section is also named after a dominating geographic feature (in example a volcano, a river or a lake, a national park it crosses or a town or village on the route).

The Main Route is formed by sections **GPT01 to GPT40** and spans approx. 3000 km from the outskirts of Santiago de Chile to the Southern Patagonian Icefield. These sections form the core of the GPT and have been hiked and paddled between 2014 and 2020 by a good number of people based on the GPT documentation. The main route is more balanced and the appropriate part to personally start exploring Greater Patagonia.

The Southern Route consists of sections **GPT41 to GPT69**. This extension was planned in 2020 and 2021 and continues the GPT to the most southern point of mainland Americas: Cabo Froward. The Southern Route than traverses Tierra del Fuego to finally finish on Isla Navarino: the most southern populated islands of the Americas. The Southern Route is physically and mentally more demanding due to the partially difficult terrain, long road walks and the more complex logistics.

Both, packrafters and hikers can choose from the Fjord Route sections **GPT70 to GPT78** that connect the Main Route with the Patagonian fjords. These sections are not south of the Main Route but to the west and connect with the Main Route between GPT22 and GPT27. The Fjord Route provides interesting alternations to the Main Route and is suitable for first time visitors and GPT veterans.

Finally, the Packrafting Specials circle the Northern Patagonian Icefield and consist of sections **GPT80P to GPT92P**. These sections are planned in detail but only partially verified and recorded by GPS yet. The Packrafting Specials consist of very demanding packrafting routes and partially require expeditions into completely unpopulated areas and combine tough hiking with exposed packrafting.

This diversity of routes makes it impractical to summarize the length of the GPT in one number. Only examples can be given. The next tables show the length and composition of the Main Route based on the current regular hiking route and the current regular packraft route.

Regular Route from GPT01 to GPT69 (Santiago - Cabo Froward - Isla Navarino)			
GPT01 to GPT69	**Hiking**	**Hiking and Packrafting**	**Comment**
Distance	4985 km	5221 km	Regular Route from section GPT01 to GPT69 (without GPT63 to GPT66 and without optional side trips and ascents to summits). Packrafting from section GPT17P to GPT39 only. Alternative routes, short cuts and optional side trip i.e. ascents to summits may substantially alter the actual distance and the ascent and descent. Distance travelled by ferry not included.
Elevation Gain and Loss	159000 m↑↓	122000 m↑↓	

Table 1: Trail Length of Main Route

Track Terrain Composition of Regular Route from Section GPT01 to GPT69						
Track Terrain	**Code**	**Hiking**		**Hiking and Packrafting**		**Comment**
		Distance	**Percent**	**Distance**	**Percent**	
Trails	TL	1938 km	38.9%	1487 km	28.5%	Mostly visible trail on any terrain i.e. in open landscape or forest. Trails are primarily used by animals and rarely made for hiking.
Minor Roads	MR	1766 km	35.4%	1488 km	28.5%	Any route that could be used or can be used by a vehicle regardless if this road or car track is open for public use or not. Includes also abandoned roads that are not any more traversable by vehicles. Minor roads are without transit traffic. Hitch-hiking is rarely promising.
Primary Roads	PR	690 km	13.8%	497 km	9.5%	Public gravel or paved road with moderate transit traffic. Hitch-hiking is generally promising.
Cross Country	CC	583 km	11.7%	530 km	10.2%	Route that passes through open landscape without a visible continuous trail but also without dense vegetation. Sporadic animal tracks might be visible but may be misguiding.
Bush Bashing	BB	8 km	0.2%	9 km	0.2%	Route that passes through overgrown terrain. Demanding and very slow advance.
Packrafting on Water				1210 km	23.2%	Packrafting route composition see next table.
Ferry	FY	(226 km)	(4.5%)	(687 km)	(13.2%)	Lake, river and fjord crossing with a ferry or motorboat. This distance is NOT ADDED into the distance.

Table 2: Trail Composition of Main Route

The packraft example below does not include all possible packrafting but considers packraft use only on the selected sections where this equipment is clearly more benefit than burden (Sections GPT17P to GPT39). This example excludes the not yet verified and particularly challenging exploration sections.

Regular Packrafting Route from GPT17P to GPT39 (Liquine - El Chalten)		
GPT17P to GPT39	**Packrafting**	**Comment**
Distance	2217 km	From section GPT17P to GPT39 packrafting it is highly recommended because on these sections carrying a packraft is more benefit than burden. Southbound Regular Packrafting Route without optional side trips.
Elevation Gain and Loss	35000 m↑↓	

Table 3: Trail Length of Packrafting Main Route

Track Terrain Composition of Regular Packrafting Route from Section GPT17P to GPT39					
Track Terrain		**Code**	**Packrafting**		**Comment**
			Distance	**Percent**	
Packrafting			**1210 km**	**54.6%**	Combined packrafting distance on water (Rivers, Lakes, Fjords). This is the distance where the actual weight of your backpack is zero because your packraft carries you and your backpack.
on Water	River	RI	627 km	28.3%	River downstream packrafting. Practically all rivers are one-way packrafting routes.
	Lake	LK	478 km	21.6%	Lake packrafting. Normally two-way routes but predominant wind direction may make one direction favourable.
	Fjord	FJ	104 km	4.7%	Fjord packrafting. Normally two-way routes but predominant wind direction may make one direction favourable.
Hiking			**1007 km**	**45.4%**	Combined hiking distance on land. This is the actual distance where the packrafting gear is "death weight" in your backpack.
on Land	Trails	TL	368 km	16.6%	See above.
	Minor Roads	MR	412 km	18.6%	See above.
	Primary Roads	PR	101 km	4.6%	See above.
	Cross Country	CC	119 km	5.4%	See above.
	Bush Bashing	BB	7 km	0.3%	See above.
	Ferry	FY	(595 km)	(26.8%)	See above.

Table 4: Trail Composition of Packrafting Main Route

1.4 The GPT Terrain: Greater Patagonia

If you are considering exploring the Greater Patagonian Trail and wish to enjoy the experience, you must be open to experiencing the unknown diversity of this region. If your imagination of Patagonia is based on TV documentaries and travel magazine than you probably have seen primarily these three heavily hyped tourist magnets:

- the national park Torres del Paine,
- the glacier Perito Moreno and
- the surrounding of El Chalten with Mount Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre.

These are three truly amazing spots on the eastern edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefield and are internationally known highlights of Patagonia. But these three frequently pictured attractions do not represent the Patagonian diversity. If your primary interest is visiting the heavily trod, famous places of Patagonia then stick to the national parks in the south and bus in between.

The GPT offers much more than this. The Greater Patagonian Trail is rather like a gourmet menu of different courses that allow you to experience the different tastes and textures of Patagonia. It connects the semi-desert of *Precordillera* with the Patagonian Icefields and the barren volcanos with the damp green rain forest.



Picture 18: GPT39: Cerro Torre. Image: Paul Bostelmann



Picture 19: GPT44: Glacier Perito Moreno. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 20: GPT45: Torres del Paine. Image: Jan Dudeck

The Greater Patagonian Trail crosses most of Patagonia and the adjacent regions to the north. For this reason I named the trail[3] “Greater Patagonian Trail” when I started publishing in 2014. I coined the term "Greater Patagonia" to combine Patagonia in its traditional limits with the adjacent regions like "Greater London" includes the city of London and the surroundings[4].



Picture 21: GPT39: Fitz Roy. Image: Jan Dudeck

[3] When initially publishing the GPT it was mostly a single-line trail with much fewer options and alternatives than today. It evolved in the following years into the vast route network but I opted to maintain the now established “trail” name.
[4] “Greater” also hints that this is one of the longest trails in Latin America and simply a great trail.

The limits of Patagonia are somewhat blurry. This makes it impractical to state where exactly the GPT gets into Patagonia. If taking the administrative limits of Argentina, than you get in throwing range of Patagonia at the end of section GPT05 where you can look over the Argentinian border into the province Neuquén. But with a different understanding you enter Patagonia on section GPT13 where you ford the Río Biobío. Others argue that Patagonia starts with the Chilean administrative region XIV (Región de los Ríos) what makes section GPT16 the gateway into Patagonia. You can be certain to have reached Patagonia on section GPT22 where you arrive at the first Patagonian fjord: the Estuarió de Reloncaví. For more information to this subject see chapter 3.5.4 Remark to the Limits of Patagonia on page 1170 in the Appendix.

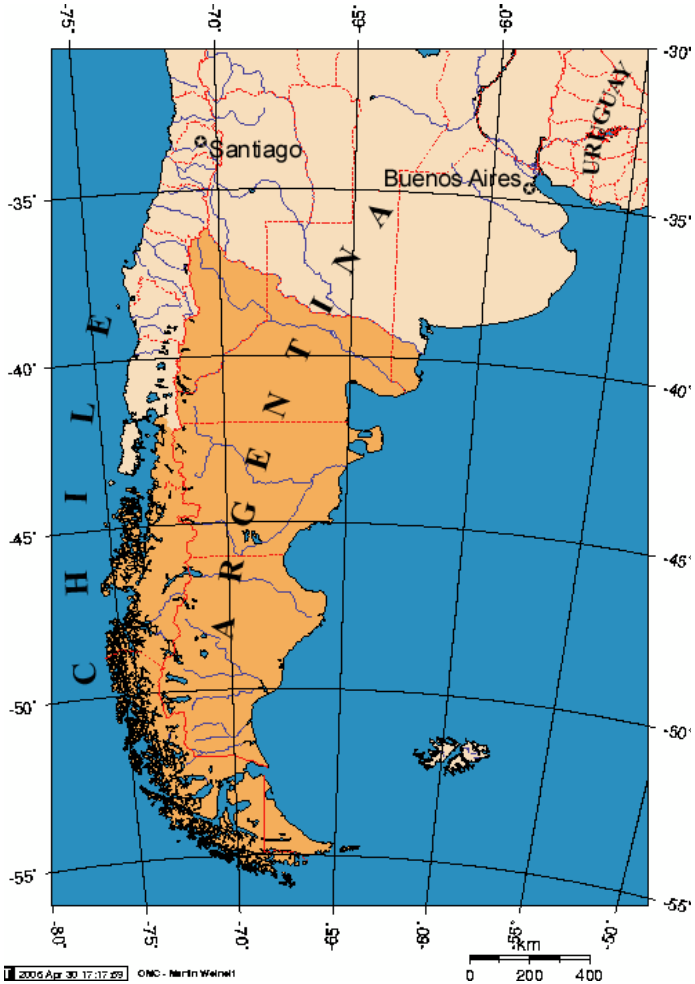
For me this discussion about the limits of Patagonia is irrelevant if I can walk and paddle through pristine and varied terrain. Actually, the less known regions north of Patagonia more attractive for hiking. Here you walk more distance high up in the mountains with broad views, here you find the more attractive trails and cross-country routes and here you meet the *arrieros* and the native *Pehuenche* people. Also, the climate is more favourable for hiking. During summer, rain is infrequent, and you can mostly enjoy sunny weather.



Picture 22: Historic map from 1860 presenting Patagonia as a country of its own. Image: Wikipedia

In contrast, when reaching Patagonia, get ready for frequent and enduring rain. Also, don't expect to walk high up in the mountains in the heartland of Patagonia as there is simply no continuously high mountain range. In Patagonia high mountains are rather like islands that are surrounded by dense temperate rainforest in the west and a semi-desert-like Pampa in the east. These island-like mountains are separated by wide valleys that were carved by giant glaciers during past glacial periods. The wide valleys are now partly filled with lakes that drain their water in powerful rivers into the Patagonian fjords. Therefore, “real Patagonia” is best traveled by packraft because a packraft gets you on these lakes, rivers and fjords. In the following chapter 1.5 Packrafting the GPT I provide an introduction into packrafting on the GPT.

To understand the diverse terrain in more detail read chapter 2.1.2.1 Diversity of Greater Patagonia on page 330.



Picture 23: Approximate limits of Patagonia.
Image: Wikipedia

1.5 Packrafting the GPT

When I started planning my first long hike through Patagonia in 2013 I could not find a continuous hiking route south of Coñaripe (GPT16) because dense forest hides most of the trails on satellite images. But I could see calm rivers and lakes that bridged the gaps and I wondered if there existed a light enough boat to be carried in a backpack to traverse these waters. I googled and found the packraft. So, the initial cause for incorporating packrafting options were insufficient information about the existing trails and not my fascination for amphibious travel. It was not until after our first hike that I could add additional hiking routes that now render a packraft expendable but not less beneficial.

In retrospect I'm so glad that I lacked the information about the hidden routes. Otherwise I would probably not have discovered the



Picture 24: GPT24P: Packrafting Lago Futalaufquen. Image: Jan Dudeck

packraft as the ideal hiking partner for Patagonia. A packraft does not only carry your backpack, it carries you! What matters in this “partnership” is a good balance. You don’t want to carry your packraft most of the time but benefit from it as much as possible. And this is the case on sections GPT17 to GPT39. Here the packraft carries you on more than 50% of the distance and this makes it a brilliant deal. Further north (on sections GPT01 to GPT16) a packraft is more burden than benefit and I would only recommend packrafting if you specifically plan to explore a certain lake and the surrounding area.



Picture 25: GPT18: Sailing Lago Pirihueico. Image: Jan Dudeck

When packrafting on lakes and rivers we normally do not exceed hiking speed so the packraft does not make us faster. In contrast, all the packing and unpacking and the extra weight slows us down. But speed is not our objective. What we seek is diversity and a packraft opens up some of the most epic routes in Patagonia.

The required packrafting gear adds about 5 kg to a solo hiker’s pack or 4 kg if shared in between two. You need a boat, paddles, a dry suit, a PFD (personal flotation device), an inflation bag and repair gear. A sail is optional. For an ultra-light hiker this is an unimaginable extra weight but if considering that the backpack weight drops on 50% of the route to zero then this extra weight on the other half of the is a fair deal.

What you need when packrafting is a dry suit, not only for comfort but as a life insurance. In Patagonia weather is volatile and water temperatures are normally low. If you fell into a glacier lake, the near freezing water will cause hypothermia, complete exhaustion, and unconsciousness in less then 15 minutes. A dry suit keeps you capable of acting in such circumstances. We were several times surprised by heavy wind, rain and even snowfall during lake crossings and the dry suit was our layer of defence until reaching a suitable landing. In such adverse conditions, without a dry suit, the body temperature drops in minutes and this disables to act appropriately. Hypothermia makes dumb and numb and transforms anyone into a zombie regardless of how experienced and prudent this person acts at normal "operation temperature".

A dry suit perfectly replaces normal rain gear and therefore does not add much extra weight to the backpack. And a dry suit is so much better than any rain gear, even when hiking! It keeps you completely dry and warm even when fording hip-deep glacier rivers. No rain gear does this. When we need to walk in cold rain or snow we put on our dry suit and we don't take it off until we have cooked our dinner and can slide in our sleeping bag or quilt.

On a rainy day, if I can choose between hiking or packrafting, it’s an easy choice.



Picture 26: GPT38: The best bad weather gear: hiking with dry suit at Lago O’Higgins. Image: Jan Dudeck

Sitting in my boat, protected by my dry suit, will turn a rainy day into a rewarding day on the water. Without a backpack and with moderate exertion I'm not sweating or freezing, provided I wear appropriate clothing under my dry suit. Protected with proper gloves and headwear, only the face is exposed to the elements. So rain doesn't stops us from packrafting; the only thing that stops us is strong wind and the resulting waves.

When we started investigating the GPT in 2013 we had no pre-experience with packrafting or kayaking. In hindsight it seems irresponsible that we inflated our packraft for the first time on the GPT. Only thanks to beginners' luck and caution we did not run into a serious situation with our novice ignorance. To not rely on beginners' luck, I strongly recommend learning packrafting or kayaking in the protected environment of a training course. The GPT is the wrong place to start practicing it.



Picture 27: GPT27P: Floating down the Río Palena. Packed in dry suits, secured with a PFD (Personal Floatation Device) and the GPS and InReach at hand. Image: Meylin Ubilla



Picture 28: GPT38: Crossing Lago Chico on the Regular Packrafting Route. Expect low water temperature. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 29: GPT35H: Crossing Lago Verde with no suiteable landing shore nearby while a cloud with rain and snow rolls in. Image: Jan Dudeck

What is essential when packrafting is knowledge, respecting the water hazards, and good judgment. Great care must be taken to leave rivers at the recommended exit points because mortal rapids are often downstream (and you often can't see or hear them at the recommended exit point). Streams change constantly with rising and falling water levels, riverbeds alter over time and weather in Patagonia is volatile. The fact that someone took a particular water route before does not mean that it is safe at a later date.

Therefore, the track files are only an rough guide and each packrafter needs to assess the situation themself; in example judge wind, waves and weather before attempting a lake or fjord crossing or scout a river rapid to decide if to paddle or to portage around.

Packrafting gear is not cheap. If you don't have the equipment, expect to spend about 2000 EUR or USD to buy the full set. That's a considerable investment but it's a lasting one if treated with care.

Before starting on the GPT evaluate carefully what sections you want to travel, and if carrying a packraft would be beneficial or not. For this study in detail the terrain and section information to make a smart choice that fits your capabilities and expectations. Thanks to the magnitude of the GPT it is easy to fill an entire hiking season either with pure hiking or with a balanced combination of packrafting and hiking.



Picture 30: GPT36H: Exit point out of Río Tranquilo just before a mortal waterfall. Make very sure to never miss the last recommended exit point. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.6 Thru-Hiking the GPT

This trail was not created to thru-hike Patagonia, it's a route network for immersion-hiking. The GPT does not get you through Patagonia but gets you deep into Patagonia.

With the 2021 extension the GPT spans about 5000 km in often difficult and slow terrain. This makes the GPT too long to be safely thru-hiked in one season[5]. An experienced thru-hiker may disagree as 5000 km is just 15% longer than the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) but the varied and unpredictable terrain makes this comparison inadequate.

Therefore, I do not recommend attempting a thru-hike of the GPT. This focus would require rushing and taking less attractive short cuts, in example deviating from GPT to walk on main roads instead of following the trails. It inhibits slowing down to fully appreciate the land and share time with the people along the route. And more importantly, someone who tries to thru-hike the GPT in one season is forced to hike some sections off season. This results in unreasonable risks by attempting to cross torrential rivers and climbing to high elevations when fierce blizzards can kill. And



Picture 31: GPT21: My backpack with packrafting gear. Image: Meylin Ubilla

[5] So far three hikers walked the length of the GPT in the attempt to hike the entire American continent from Tierra del Fuego to Alaska. One hiker walked the length of the GPT in one season by following the GPT where feasible but skipping parts of the GPT to road-walk around various sections that were not passable due to climate and seasonally closed borders. The two other hikers split the thru-hike of the GPT into two seasons and were therefore able to follow the GPT closer.

remember, when walking these trails, you are just a guest on the land of others. Just the idea of racing through strangers' backyards is regarded a rude in these remote regions.

From a thru-hiking perspective the GPT is less than a long-distance trail. There is no clearly defined and well-marked single trail to blaze along, there is no thru-hiking community to trail talk and there are no "trail angels" providing "trail magic". On the GPT hikers have no domiciliary rights; they are just unexpected guests. Also, the packrafting options do not benefit thru-hiking as they do not make a traverse faster.

And what might be the biggest disappointment for some thru-hikers on the GPT: There is no trail community and thru-hikers do not receive any special admiration because nobody along the trail distinguishes between thru-hikers, section-hikers, day-hikers, or tourists in general.



Picture 32: GPT11: The *puesto* of the *Pehuenche* family Carrileo near Guallalí. Image: Jan Dudeck

For respectful explorers the GPT is much more than a long-distance trail. It's a wide network of routes with many hiking options and packrafting in a diverse landscape. A unique blend of people lives along the trails making the hike more of a cultural experience. If approached with respect and interest, then these welcoming people will share much more than just the right-of-way regardless where you are coming from and where you are walking to. On this trail your willingness and capability to immerse yourself in this culture will be more relevant than the weight of your backpack.



Picture 33: GPT11: Being guest of the family Carrileo. Image: Jan Dudeck



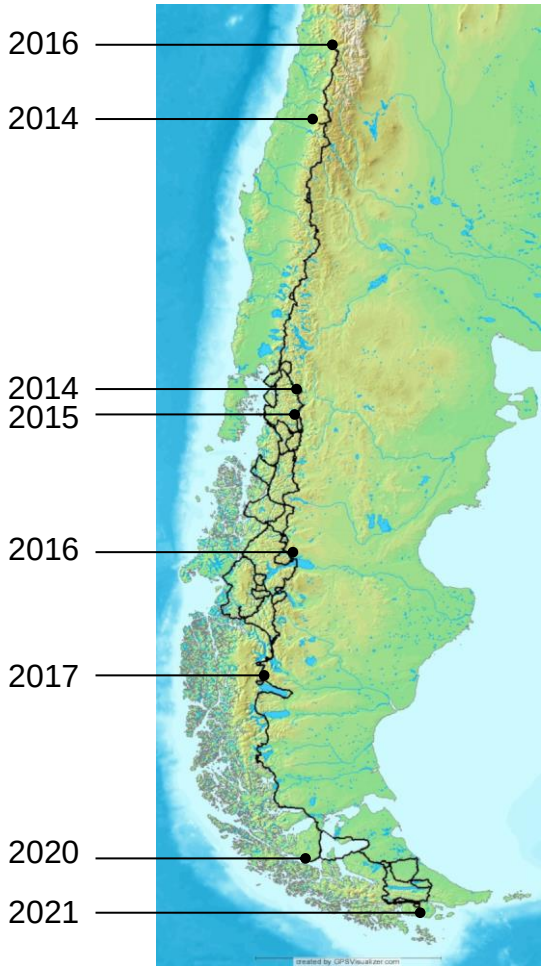
Picture 34: Lauren Reed

If you find Triple Crown Thru-Hikers more credible to speak about thru-hiking the GPT than read in the Appendix how Lauren Reed (Neon) and Christine Thürmer (German Tourist) experienced the GPT in comparison with the renowned US long distance trails. Lauren was the first hiker to walk the entire length of the GPT in two seasons together with Bethany Hughes (Fidgit).

Someone who wants to explore the entire length of GPT should split this adventure into various seasons. This also facilitates hiking lightly where a packraft would just be a burden and to packraft were the extra weight really pays off. See chapter 2.1.1 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 326 for detailed recommendations. Having more than one season also gives the extra time to take some of the more demanding but rewarding options.

There is one more reason why a thru-hike of the GPT in the literal sense[6] is not viable. Thru-hiking means walking a complete long-distance trail with connecting footsteps from start to finish typically in one season. This is only possible on a well-defined trail with a set start and finish point. This simply does not apply to the GPT.

Attempting to thru-hike the GPT is like trying to memorise every word of a book that is still in the making with the first drafts informally shared for peer reviews. It's pretty pointless and assigns this evolving route network far too much authority. But this unfinished nature of the GPT makes it possible to investigate new routes and become co-authors of the GPT. This is a unique difference to established long-distance trails. You are not limited to just follow a given trail, but you can contribute to the GPT by adding your part to this unfinished story.



Picture 35: The evolution of the GPT End Points between 2014 and 2021

[6] In the United States, this term is most commonly associated with the Appalachian Trail (AT, approx. 3500 km), the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT, approx. 4300 km), and the Continental Divide Trail (CDT, approx. 5000 km), but also refers to other end-to-end hikes. In recent years this form of athletic hiking became quite popular in the US. This hype was fuelled by the movies "A Walk in the Woods" and "Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail"[6] 🌎. Also, in Europe and other parts of the world the term "thru-hiking" is now trending but often used incorrectly when referring simply to a long-distance hike.

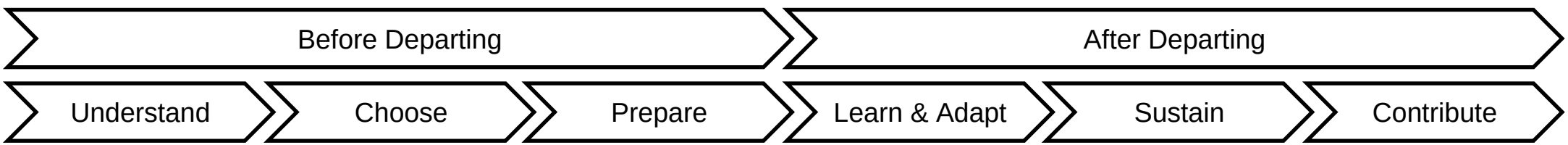
Michael Deckebach summarized this conclusion after his 5-months adventure on the GPT with the following words: "The Greater Patagonian Trail is awesome, but (...) not designed for “purists” who get satisfaction from completing every inch of trail or touching every white blaze. Can it be done? Probably, but why try and fit a square peg into a round hole?”.

1.7 Guiding Principles for the GPT

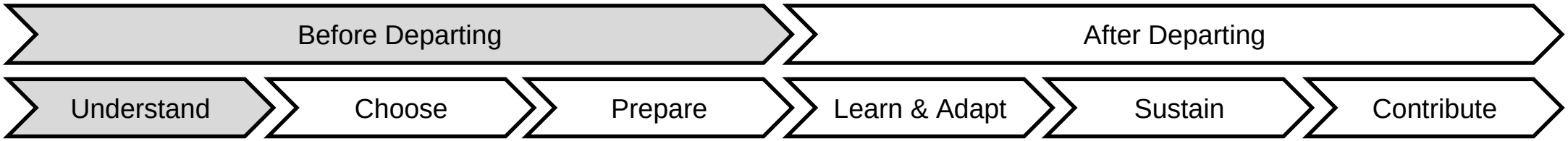
In the last years I had numerous profound talks about the essence of long-distance hiking and what it takes to appreciate such an endeavour on the GPT in a sustainable manner. In particular Piia Kortsalo, Oliver Barker, Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed were instrumental in developing the two guiding principles for the GPT:

1. **Before you depart understand the GPT to make appropriate choices and get properly prepared.**

2. **When being on the GPT adapt to the land and learn from the people to become a sustaining and contributing guest.**



I'm afraid, a good number of prospective hikers will skip over this chapter and just scan it in search of the Unlock Codes. That's a pitty, because this chapter condenses many painful lessons learned into 20 pages. These tenets seam commonplace and self-evident but the gravity of these principles and their practical application become often clear in hindsight only. Therefore, it might be prudent to re-read this chapter two to four weeks into your endeavour on the GPT.



1.7.1 Before departing to the GPT

1.7.1.1 Before you depart: Understand

One of the most important skills before you depart on the GPT is your capability to read. In particular experienced hikers are at risk of making incorrect assumptions and relying on a false sense of expertise because the GPT is quite different compared to other long-distance trails. That's one of the reasons why some highly experienced thru-hikers failed to enjoy this trail; they did not understand the GPT and in consequence made inappropriate choices, departed unprepared and had frustrating experiences on the trail.

Therefore, read the entire Chapter 1 and maybe read it again. Follow the links to additional sources and read the blogs of other hikers that walked on the GPT. These blogs are essential to get a wider and more personal perspective of the trail. Read about Chile and Argentina and learn more about Patagonia. The Hikers' Manual does not intend to be a sufficient source of information; it's just an introduction to make appropriate choices and a general guide of how to get prepared.

Get the track files and virtually hike on the GPT by reviewing the tracks in detail in Google Earth. That's essential to better understand the landscape and the nature of this trail network. Get road maps and guidebooks for Chile and Argentina if you have not been to one of these countries before. There will be more than enough surprises along the trail so eliminate the avoidable

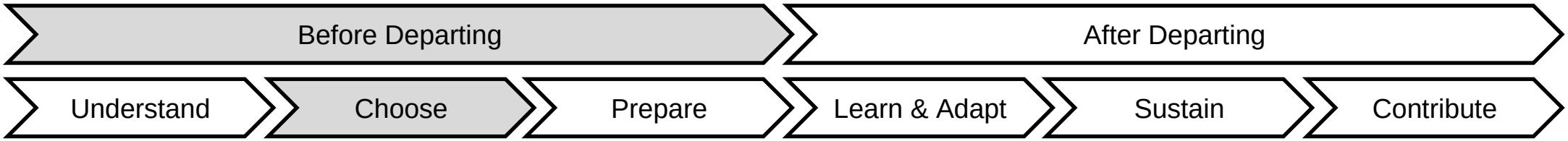
surprises by understanding what you are considering doing.

If you find this Hikers' Manual too long, too repetitive, and too confusing then be assured that the GPT is much worse. If your curiosity and patience run out reading the GPT documentation, then your patience and interest will run out rather quickly on the trail. If you don't make it to the end of Chapter 1 than better not start with the GPT.

Understand your motives and objectives and be honest with yourself. The GPT is quite special and only a specific sort of hiker will appreciate this route network. If you watched TV documentaries and read magazine articles about Patagonia and you are now looking to get to these places, then the GPT is possibly not the right choice. Someone who looks for an athletic walk or a thru-hike will quickly be driven into frustration by this weird route compilation. It's a discovery network and only hikers that wish to discover "Greater Patagonia" should contemplate with hiking and packrafting on the GPT.

If you have specific questions about the GPT that are not answered in this Hikers' Manual, ask. After having read Chapter 1 send an email to the author with your questions[7]. The email should outline your ideas for the GPT and the pre-experience you build on. With the current volume of requests, I can normally arrange a Skype call if I see genuine interest and that the available information is being read and digested.

[7] The eMail address can be found at the end of Chapter 1.



1.7.1.2 Before you depart: Choose

1.7.1.2.1 The GPT or something else?

Don’t take it for granted that the GPT is your trail. If you look for some “normal” hikes in Patagonia with limited time available then I suggest visiting the national parks and bus in between. There are good guidebooks available that describe numerous established hiking routes in detail. In particular if you don’t speak Spanish stick to these better known and more visited places where you get along with a combination of rudimentary Spanish and English.

There are a couple of questions that quickly indicate if the GPT is a suitable choice for you or not. If you answer any of the following questions with a “No” then better consider other trails:

1. **Do you have reasonable good conversational Spanish skills?**
   Could you explain to a local resident in Spanish what you are doing there on his land and keep up in a more confrontational conversation if necessary? Can you discuss with *arrieros* and settler route options? Can you ask for bus times and bus stops, buy tickets, navigate through towns, inquire into prices and this with people that do not speak any English?

2. **Do you have extensive Outdoor experience?**
   Long distance hiking experience is not required but being competent in moving and living under the sky in different landscapes is crucial on this trail (desert-like landscapes, forest, steppe, tundra).

3. **Do you really look for a demanding unpredictable discovery hike?**
   Can you deal with being unable to plan your trip in detail? Do you mind walking in trail-less terrain and fighting occasionally your way through overgrown parts while navigating with a GPS? Are you willing to backtrack if a route turns out impassable?

4. **If coming from overseas: Do you have at least two months in Chile and Argentina available?**
   If coming from far away and having less than two months than visiting the established hiking areas is more appropriate and effective to see several parts of Patagonia. For people living in Chile and Argentina it is certainly an option to explore this route network piece by piece in several shorter trips.

5. **Do you have a monthly budget of approximately 1000 USD after having paid your gear and the airfare?**
   Don’t undermine the cost of living in Chile and Argentina. With some cost saving strategies you may get along with a little less but 800 USD per month per person is the recommended minimum budget. Read also chapter 1.8.19 Cost of Travelling on page 141 to this subject.

If you answered all five questions with “Yes” then note the Track File Unlock Code 2: 733392. You will need this number later to open the track files. But be honest with yourself! If you answer any of these questions with “No” than this route network might disappoint you, drive you into frustration and put you in harm’s way.

If coming to the conclusion that the GPT is not (yet?) the right choice for you then you may opt for the more established trails in the national parks. These established trails don't lack beauty and in part coincide with the GPT. Check out the available trekking guidebooks e.g. the lonely planet guide "Trekking in the Patagonian Andes" from Carolyn McCarthy or if you read German, use the Rother Wanderführer "Patagonien und Feuerland" from Ralf Gantzhorn and Thomas Wilken to choose from a wide selection of routes. I started hiking with the lonely planet guidebook and these hikes became the foundation to investigate and publish the GPT years later.

In the Appendix is a list of suggestions with more established hiking areas in Patagonia. In the Appendix you will find also additional information about where and how to arrange a horse-riding tour. This is an excellent way to explore parts of "Greater Patagonia" more guided and to get an authentic experience of the *arriero* culture from the saddle perspective. A horse-riding tour can also complement a hike.

1.7.1.2.2 If choosing the GPT

If you opt to hike on the GPT than you must take several decisions while you prepare your hike.

1. **Do you want to hike only or do you want to packraft as well?**
   The answer to this question will determine the equipment you need and what parts of the GPT to tackle. You can easily fill an entire season with hiking on sections that are very attractive for walking but where carrying a packraft is not beneficial. The same applies to packrafting: you can easily fill four to five months packrafting in areas where having such a light-weight boat really pays off. I suggest opting for the one or the other and not mingling both choices into one season except if you have a trustworthy place in Chile to leave your packrafting gear while hiking without your (loved) boat.

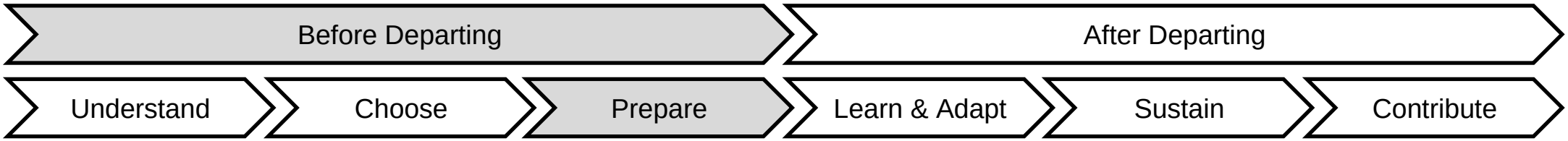
2. **Do you want to hike a continuous part of the GPT with connecting footsteps or do you want to visit several separated parts?**
   For some hikers connecting footsteps are an essential concept and motivator to stay on track while others don't mind bridging a less attractive part by public transportation or hitchhiking. Choose what is appropriate for you. And please, do not look down on others that make a different choice but respect individual choices. Hike your hike.

3. **Do you want to follow the regular route or will you attempt in some areas more remote investigation and exploration options?**
   The answer to this question is really a matter of personal interest and capability. I have intentionally created the GPT as a wide network with as many options as feasible because I'm fully aware that my way of walking with my personal preferences is not everyone's best choice. For hikers that are accustomed to follow a single trail this might be irritating but for such hikers the GPT is probably not the right route anyway. You will finally need to take these decisions on the trail but you need to get prepared taking these decision before you depart on the GPT. Therefore, start your hike in Google Earth by looking at these options to make educated choices on the trail. One hiker summarized this variety with these words: "The GPT is a mosaic out of which everyone needs to assemble his trail."

4. **What sections do you want to hike or packraft?**
   Select carefully the sections that you plan to hike. And don't fill your plate with more than what you can reasonably eat. Get prepared and plan your route but leave it open end. See chapter 2.1.1 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 326 for recommendations.

5. **When and for how long do you want to travel?**
   Understand the suitable timing of the different sections and align your travel plans accordingly. Certain sections became passable relatively early in the season during spring while others can only be hiked safely in summer after most of the snow has melted and the river levels normalized. Don’t assume wrongly that the hiking season in the south is shorter. It’s the opposite; the more mountainous northern sections have the smaller seasonal window while the generally lower southern section’s permit an earlier start or later finish even if the climate is generally more volatile in the south. If you have an entire season, then plan sections for the end that are less restricted by the climate. See chapter 2.2.6 Travel Timing on page 366 for timing recommendations.

6. **In what direction do you want to travel?**
   If you packraft then several key sections are only floatable southbound what determines the generally recommended packrafting orientation. But some optional packrafting routes can only be taken northbound. Verify your choices carefully otherwise you may reach a river that flows in the “wrong” direction! If you are hiking you are freer to choose and change your direction of travel. Only at certain sections you might run into permit issue if you made a wrong choice. See chapter 2.2.7 Travel Direction on page 370 for travel direction recommendations.



1.7.1.3 Before you depart: Prepare

It should be obvious to every reader that this trail requires extensive outdoor experience and quite good navigational skills in the different kinds of landscapes. It's no trail for outdoor novices. Therefore, I will not go into detail and will not attempt to write a general outdoor guidebook. Someone who would need this does not need (yet) a trail like the GPT. Be honest with yourself and review if you have the required skills and experience for such a demanding and unpredictable trail.

If you opt to hike or packraft along the GPT and your Spanish is still insufficient, then learn and improve your Spanish. Since you are just a guest on an informal trail network you need to explain to *arrieros*, *Pehuenche*, *pobladores*, *Carabineros* and *Gendarmería* what you are doing and ask for permission to pass. You need to ask also for direction, organize your resupply by either figuring out what is available on the route or taking public transportation to resupply towns off the trail. For this you need to ask locals for bus schedules and bus routes. I'm not planning to include such detailed information in Wikiexplora or the Hikers' Manual because bus schedules change too often. You need to ask the locals along the trial when you get close to a section end. In particular rural buses have rarely published timetables but local residents know when to wait where for a bus. Don't expect anyone along the trail to speak English. Only in the tourist town and national parks with an international profile you will somehow get along with English.

Study the route network that is relevant for you including the optional side trips and escape or exit routes. Get prepared to wisely

apply the following principles during your hike: Select and Skip, Combine and Flip. For this you need to know and understand the route network before you leave. In Google Earth you may add your personal notes in form of waypoints and transfer them with the GPS trail files to your GPS.

Become an expert in setting up the GPS track files on your GPS device and your backup navigation systems e.g. a smart phone or a InReach satellite pager. Exercise how to follow a track on your GPS if you never done it before. It's not as simple as it seems. Test the battery running times of your GPS and your emergency satellite communicator to plan your recharging on the trail. Test also the record function of your GPS to record tracks and waypoints. Recording your track is part of the terms and conditions for using these files.

Don't undermine this tech stuff and don't postpone it to the end! A good proportion of the hikers that attempted walking on the GPT experienced substantial struggles because they lacked these "nerdy" skills. Some hikers were stopped by issues as simple as not being able to make an already uploaded route visible on the GPS device. Others got stuck in overgrown terrain and had to back-track several days because they did not manage to upload the latest update of track files correctly[8].

If you opt to packraft then get familiar and exercise packrafting before you start. Ideal would be a training course that provides instructions and practice for whitewater with rapids up to Class III. To my understanding the minor rapids that we paddled on the regular route of the GPT were up to Class II and we were able to porter all other rapids that appeared too challenging to us. To have a safety margin you should be able to manage rapids that are one Class higher than what you will probably face on the GPT.

[8] The irony was that the update included a greatly improved route for exactly the area where these hikers got stuck.

In this remote area you should simply not go to your limit. If you do not find a good packrafting course then a kayak course will be equally helpful to gain the required knowledge and experience. Test how to pack and prepare your packraft to not start experimenting on the first lake or river that you will reach in Patagonia.

Do you know how to cook your meals in the outdoors? You probably do if you are reading this Hikers' Manual but do you know how to prepare a filling and delicious meal with the different supplies available in mountains in Chile and Argentina? Being a creative cook is a very useful skill on the GPT and getting prepared for the GPT means also widen your food range and cooking methods. Did you ever try *harina tostada* (roasted ground cereals)? Do you know how to harvest, open and prepare *piñones*? Do you bake bread while hiking? Flour is something more readily available on the trail because people normally bake their own bread in remote areas. The herdsmen and settlers often carry large sags of flour on horses or mules to their *puestos* and taught us that making your own bread in the wild is quite simple. It is a skill that we regularly appreciate to stretch our food reserves to stay longer on the trail. So is cooking over fire. The *arrieros* hardly ever carry a camping stove and cook normally on camp fires. Where permitted and sustainable we also do this and our cocking gear is selected to be suitable for cocking on fire. But be very careful; wild fires are a severe danger and in most national parks open fires are strictly banned and severely punished.

I'm not providing and I'm also not planning to provide a specific and detailed gear list with my personal equipment choices and recommendations. I provide only some general guidance and examples of what other hikers used with success. Suitable gear is essential, but it must be suitable for you and what you are comfortable and skilled to use. So far appreciation and disappointment on the trail was rarely linked to gear but primarily to attitude. Being light is good and important but not all aspects of the ultra-light philosophy are suitable for this route network. Therefore, if you have not read yet about ultra-light equipment and ultra-light strategies read about it as part of your preparation but don't take it as sole source of instructions.

1.7.1.4 Before you depart: Be careful doing this:

There is one thing you should be very careful with: Public announcements before you depart!

So far I observed: The more ambitious the announcement, the less was actually achieved. There are a few positive exceptions to this rule of thumb, but low-key hikers generally covered more ground and appreciated the trail more compared to ambitious people that published challenging plans before departure.

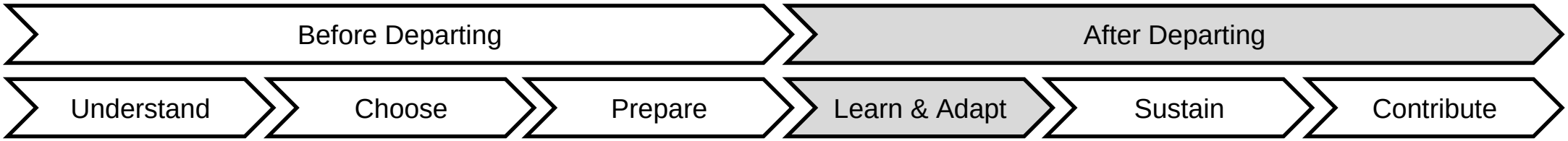
Let me share the most hilarious example: One loud-mouth and wannabe thru-hiker grabbed in 2016 the name "Greater Patagonia" that I coined years before for the trail and used it without asking to create a web domain and to name his would-be expedition. He presented himself as the "founder of Greater Patagonia", seemingly proud that he plagiarized the name that someone else created and filled with content years earlier. On his attention-grabbing webpage he loudly and proudly announced a "1500 mile thru-hike of the Greater Patagonian Trail". He used this page to ask for donations, to seek sponsors and candidates to join his team ("... applications accepted ..."). He even got T-shirts printed proclaiming this ambitious plan. But after he started his journey it took precisely 7 days till he aborted the thru-hike. He then took buses to travel primarily from national park to national park to visit a couple of the more established trails to take the much-needed selfies. This change of plans was actually a wise decision. What is ridiculous so, is that he still makes it appear as he actually hiked and paddled 1500 miles through Patagonia because he is haunted by his pretentious annunciation. This claim of having hiked and paddled 1500 miles is not just an exaggeration; it's a blunt lie. In hindsight I can only conclude: Too proud to be prudent, too vain to be honest!

In the same season at the same time several other hikers and packrafters started in the same area without having loudly pro-claimed their intentions. These low-key hikers covered more distance and really immersed into the land along the GPT which

made it such a stunning experience for most of them. They were open to learn and free to adapt to the trail while each of them hiked their hike. They could find their pace without being chased by a public proclamation that they set free before they departed and that constantly lurked in their backs.

If you really believe that you need to publish your plans before you depart then do it in a humble manner and as a tentative plan. Don't pose as a winner before you start and share your lessons learned while being on the trail. Don't build ruins of pride by publishing your mission statement without having the courage to honestly state how your mission developed and terminated. And don't worry if you aren't a flawless hero in your endeavour; braggers are rarely loved for their self-display. Most people admire authenticity, and you are authentic if you openly share your misses, struggles and lessons learned.

A personal note: I published my first word about my hikes in Patagonia after I travelled this area 9 times and more than a decade after my first visit. What you find now in this Hikers’ Manual is the result of a deepening relationship with this unique region that started back in 2002.



1.7.2 When being on the GPT

1.7.2.1 When being on the GPT: Learn and Adapt

The GPT requires a detailed preparation but refuses to be planned in detail. Therefore, regardless of how well prepared you depart your high-flying ambitions will be grounded pretty soon if you are not ready to learn and if you are unwilling to adapt to the trail. It’s a trail for the humble; not for the proud.

Apply the following principles to the various sections during your hike: Select and Skip, Combine and Flip.

1.7.2.1.1 Select and Skip

Readjust your plans while hiking. Sometimes you may be forced to skip sections. There might be a river that is too high and too powerful to be forded safely or a landowner that does not want to let anyone pass. A raging wildfire might force you to wait or to skip a part of the trail. But also the numerous volcanoes along the route can change your plans without asking for your consent. In the last 10 years there were 3 major eruptions on or close to the route and numerous alarming hiccups of not so dormant volcanoes. If you advocate connecting footsteps be mentally prepared that you may need to make compromises. If you need to leave a gap in your line of steps don’t take it as a defeat but as adapting to this land.

1.7.2.1.2 Combine

If you want to spend more time on the trail and less time in buses and towns then combine several sections into longer hiking legs without leaving the trail to resupply. Especially in the northern half of the GPT resupplying at a “full range supermarket” requires leaving the trail[9]. A resupply trip to a town off the trail might easily take between one and three days but a section end is no obligation to resupply; it’s just an option. We combined up to four sections into a long hiking stretch without getting off the trail. Other hikers did the same for equal reasons.

Staying two to three weeks on the trail is an excellent immersive experience that becomes even more eye-opening if you resupply with what you can source on the trail. In the *Pehuenche* region we sometimes filled our stomach with *piñones* (*Araucaria* seeds) that are the traditional staple food of the indigenous people. If you are in the *Araucania* region in late summer or early autumn you have an unlimited supply of free food on the trail. We sometimes buy a goat or lamb and ask the seller to prepare it with us and we share an extended dinner with our hosts. When we move on we carry plenty of cooked meat for the following 3 to 4 days. Sometimes you can buy freshly baked bread or even cheese from the locals along the trail. That’s why our food rations last often much longer than originally planned.

1.7.2.1.3 Flip

Most sections can be hiked southbound and northbound and also the packrafting on lakes and fjords is often feasible in both directions. Use these choices when suitable. If you was forced to skip attractive sections you may come back later and attempt them in the opposite direction if it suites more from a logistical point of view. Also, some of the exploration options are better

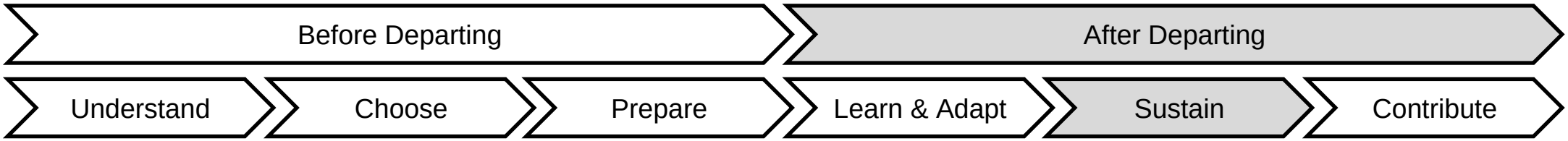
[9] And on the southern half of the GPT you will have even less such “full range supermarkets” even in the towns and villages off the trail.

investigated in a particular direction that might be opposite to your general direction of travel. Therefore, be open-minded to change the direction of travel if favourable.

1.7.2.1.4 Learn and Adapt

The learning and adapting applies to various aspects of your hike e.g. your resupply strategy, your gear and how to interact with the people along the trail. What really matters on this trail is your openness to learn and willingness to change. This requires questioning yourself and scrutinizing your best practices that served you so well on other trails in other regions. Especially experienced hikers may struggle doing this. This is one reason why seemingly less experienced hikers enjoyed the trail more and covered more ground then some highly experienced Thru-Hikers. A healthy portion of self-doubt enables you to learn and adapt while being on the trail.

If you have not used a GPS previously than this is one aspect in which you need to learn and adapt. I'm sometimes puzzled by the aversion that some hikers express against using a GPS. These hikers are deeply convinced that this technology will spoil their trail experience without having actually learned how to use GPS and without having experienced the effect of a completely silent travel companion that knows the route but speaks only when asked. When I receive such emails asking how to best hike the GPT without GPS than I can only reply: Learn and Adapt!



1.7.2.2 When being on the GPT: Protect by being a Sustainable Guest

For me, being a sustainable guest on the GPT has three aspects: a local, a social and a global aspect.

Local sustainability: "**Leave no trace**" is a generally accepted and established outdoor ethic. The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics translates this ethics into 7 principals:

- Principle 1: Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Principle 2: Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Principle 3: Dispose of Waste Properly
- Principle 4: Leave What You Find
- Principle 5: Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Principle 6: Respect Wildlife
- Principle 7: Be Considerate of Other Visitors

On the GPT, less apparent but very important practical aspects of the "Leave no trace" ethic are:

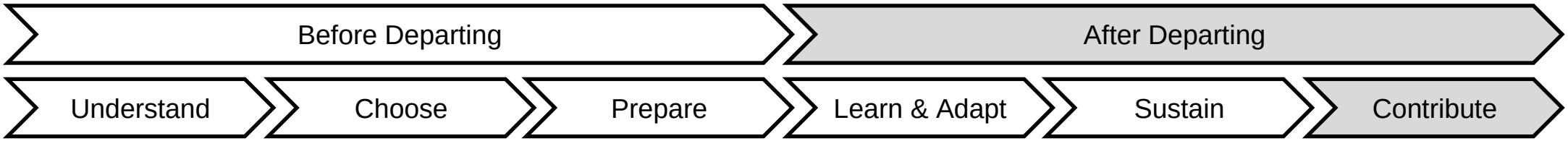
- Don't carry potentially invasive species to Chile or Argentina by carefully cleaning used outdoor gear before travelling.

- An invasive algae, Didnymo (scientific name: *Didymosphenia geminata*) already infested parts of Chile and Argentina making it now mandatory to clean the packraft and packraft gear (paddles, dry suite, water shoes, gloves, PFD) when moving between different sweat-water bodies (unconnected lakes and rivers). Cleaning with dishwasher normally destroys this invasive algae. See also the Wikipedia article to *Didymosphenia geminata* (Spanish article, English article 🌎).

Social sustainability: When it comes to people “Leave no trace” is not an option. You simply cannot walk through someone’s homeland without leaving any trace because ignoring your hosts will inevitably leave a bad trace. Therefore, when it comes to people apply the principle: “**Leave a good trace**”. Be a pleasant and responsible guest. When asked, explain patiently what you are doing. The right-of-way should be free but pay fairly for all services. Don’t abuse the hospitality. See chapter 1.8.19 Cost of Travelling on page 141 to this subject.

Global sustainability: To investigate the GPT I travel annually from Europe to Chile. And by publishing the GPT I create an incentive for others to make a similar long journey. But the air travel to Chile leaves an immense ecological footprint that is not compensated by carefully following the “leave no trace” ethics on the GPT. So, with our current technology me and other overseas guests cannot visit the GPT in a sustainable manner. This became for me a moral conflict to which I have no answer or excuse.

Only residents of Chile and Argentina can travel the GPT in a reasonable sustainable manner. Therefore, I’m glad to see the growing interest for this trail project in Chile and Argentina.



1.7.2.3 When being on the GPT: Contribute

The GPT is not a public trail and no agency or foundation cares for this trail network. Therefore, contributions of hikers are essential to keep the GPT documentation updated and to investigate new routes. There are multiple ways to contribute:

1. **Provide important updates and alerts on Wikiexplora** during your hike. If you encounter an obstacle that turns you around or that complicates your hike significant, then publish it on Wikiexplora in the corresponding section article as soon as you get internet to alert other hikers. In addition, you can post this update in the Facebook group but Wikiexplora is the primary place to collect such information. See chapter 2.4.5 Contributing to the Wikiexplora Section Article on page 588 for detailed instructions.

2. **Add yourself to the Section Logs on Wikiexplora** by providing e.g. your section start date, your hiking direction, the time you needed and your personal perception of this section. Collecting such brief summaries from many hikers is important for basing the Section Travel Timing Recommendation on actual trail experience. It also helps to get a balanced rating of the section attractiveness and difficulty that reflects the personal perceptions of multiple hikers. The intention of this section log is not a performance comparison. See chapter 2.4.5 Contributing to the Wikiexplora Section Article on page 588 for more information to this topic.

3. **Record your tracks by GPS**, regardless if walking on already verified trails or exploring unverified investigation routes. All GPS records are important and useful to keep the trail file updated and to expand the route network. A full GPS record shows perfectly well where a hiker got briefly disoriented, which variants he chose and how he managed a cross country or bush bashing section where not defined route exists. Several full GPS records for each section from each season are required to keep the track files updated.

4. **Record useful waypoints by GPS** that are missing in the track files. Send these waypoints together with a comment to the author for review and publication. These may be water holes in particular dry regions where water planning is required, settlers that offer food and accommodation and suitable camp spots in areas where such places are rare and hidden. The objective is not including all imaginable waypoints but incorporating only what is useful and relevant in hindsight. In example suggest an additional Diversion waypoint, where you took a wrong turn and where others might get lost as well. So future hikers see this Division waypoint on the GPS and conclude: “Watch out, there is a tricky point where your auto-pilot may misguide you!”.

5. **Investigate new routes**. The GPT trail files contain numerous investigation and exploration options. These are routes with good evidence that they had been used in the past but that need to be verified again or that lack a GPS record. Some investigation routes are minor improvements that can be attempted by most hikers. But some exploration options will be quite demanding and should therefore only be attempted by hikers or packrafters with the appropriate experience and appetite for adventure. Read the comments to the investigation and exploration options in the section descriptions or contact me and I can share the information and expertise I have.

You wish to **contribute in other ways**? Contact me! If you enjoy writing then you are welcome to:

Edit the section documentations on Wikiexplora after a season by reviewing all feedbacks, researching missing information and incorporation all this into one well readable consistent section description. If there are contradicting perceptions don't eliminate one perception but try to summarize the different views. Do this for sections that you hiked or packrafted yourself.

Work with me to correct and update this Hikers' Manual especially if you are skilful writer and proficient in English. Fill the gaps of this document by issuing some missing texts in cooperation with me and other hikers. The current structure of this document and good part of the content was not my idea but developed out of proposals of others.

You are a photographer and you would like to **publish a selection of your images**? Upload them on Wikiexplora in the corresponding section article and provide high resolution images to me for the Hikers' Manual.

You are a GIS expert with **new ideas how to organize and process all the tracks and waypoints**? Tell me! I still struggle especially with smart phone navigation apps.

You are an OSM contributor and you would like to **incorporate selected trails with an undisputed right-of-way in OSM**? We can work together on this task.

You have other ideas not mentioned here? Tell me or post your suggestion in the Facebook group for discussion.

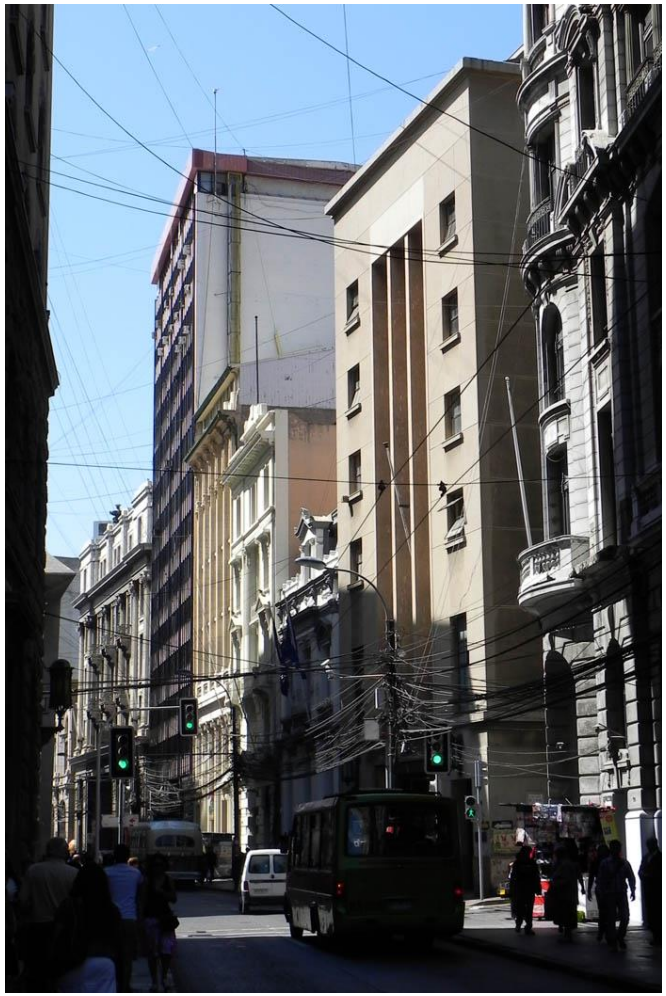
1.8 The Host Nations of the GPT

1.8.1 Chile and Argentina

The Greater Patagonian Trail is located in South America in Chile and Argentina. These two countries are sometimes referred to as the “Southern Cone”. About 86% of the current Main Route is located on Chilean territory and 14% is on Argentine soil.

People that are not familiar with this continent often mingle all their associations of Latin America into one scary-lovely medley. If they listen to a news report about unrest in Venezuela it stains their imagination of Chile and Argentina because they think it’s next door. And when they hear Chile; they instantly think that Chileans must eat spicy food like the Mexicans because it’s called Chile. But like any other continent[10] Latin American it a socially, politically, and economically diverse continent with quite different nations.

If you are interested in hiking the GPT but you never have been to Chile or Argentina then start with learning about these two countries. I’m not attempting to provide a comprehensive introduction to the Chile and Argentina with the following paragraphs. I mainly focus on a few trail specific aspects that you probably will not find in guidebooks.



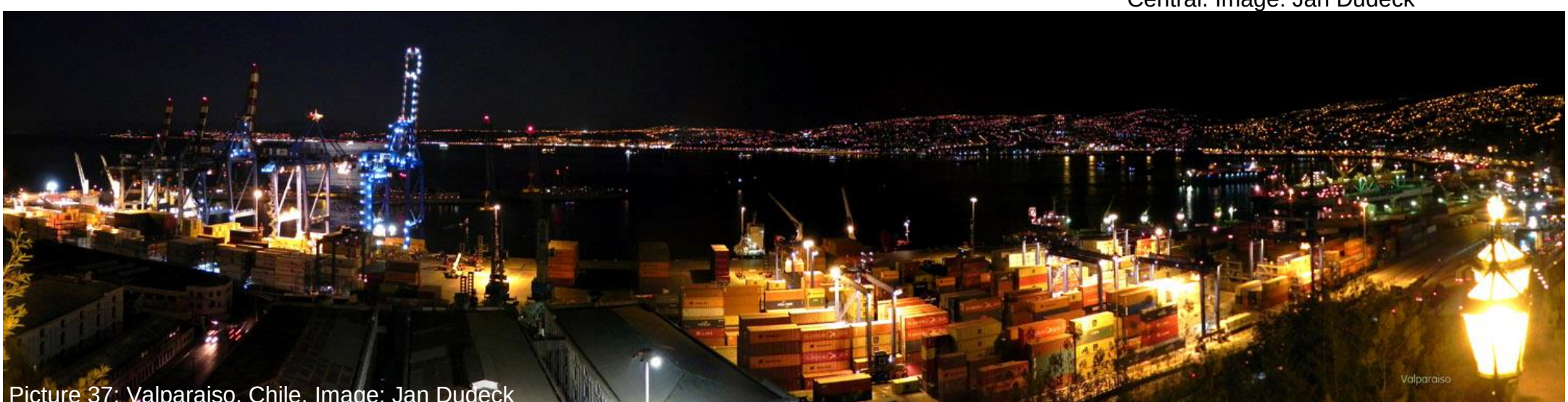
Picture 36: Valparaiso, Chile. Image: Jan Dudeck

[10] with the exception of Antarctica

Chile and Argentina are not developing countries like their neighbour Bolivia. Chile and Argentina are very much like western countries but with a high inequality of wealth and income. Both countries are on a global scale reasonably stable and healthy democracies, Argentina may have a bit more populism and corruption than Chile. Both countries have reasonably good working institutions e.g. a police force that keeps most of the country reasonable safe. And both nations have their social struggles, economic challenges, and political scandals like many others.



Picture 38: Santiago de Chile, Mercado Central. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 37: Valparaiso, Chile. Image: Jan Dudeck

Chile and Argentina receive a lot of tourists and there is not much xenophobia. It's quite the opposite; tourists are welcome and received with hospitality as long as they don't pretend to belong to a superior race. After three centuries of colonization and two centuries with sometimes heavy outside interference people have a fine sense for any form of arrogance. If they sense it, they will often not speak up[11] but you should expect to receive reservation and poor service in return. And that's a pity because Argentines and Chileans are normal open and interested people that treat guests with honest geniality.

If you are from outside of Latin America accept to be called a *gringo* in particular if coming from Europe, North America or Australia. In the Southern Cone this term has no negative intonation[12]. The label *gringo* implies that this person is bit ignorant of the local customs who needs to be treated with leniency. Try to surprise your counterpart with good Spanish skills and knowledge about his country!



Picture 39: GPT36H: Being the guest of Irma and Lorenzo at El Brown on the shore of Lago Cochrane. Image: Jan Dudeck

[11] Especially Chileans learned to swallow their objections during 17 years of a military dictatorship.
[12] Unlike in Mexico and Central America where gringo has a negative intonation.

1.8.2 The People of Chile and Argentina

This generalization of people from far away (all are *gringos*) is contrasted by a classist thinking about their own nation, especially in Chile. A few super-rich own and control most of the country, a stressed middle class (living mainly in the cities) tries hard to keep up and many simple living people (which make the majority in rural areas) learned to live a tranquil life with rather little. The different groups and social classes are distinct between each other and rarely mingle; they live in different quarters; send their children to different schools and vacation in different places.



Picture 40: GPT20 and GPT21: Subsidized ferry on Lago Rupanco that serves remotely living settlers and now also hikers. Image: Jan Dudeck

What you do not see much more is extreme poverty. Since the end of the military dictatorship in 1990 a center-left government runs Chile for most of the time. This government was quite successful in fighting extreme poverty and improving the infrastructure in rural areas. And hikers benefit from it in several ways. When hiking in Chile and Argentina you will not experience begging like in the neighbouring countries Bolivia and Peru. Also, roads are built in rural areas, which is a mixed blessing from a hiker's perspective. On one side these roads greatly facilitate resupplying and getting to the trail heads but on the other side they also replace horse trails that are nicer to walk. The government also subsidizes public transport into particular remote places that are not served by profit-oriented private bus and ferry companies.

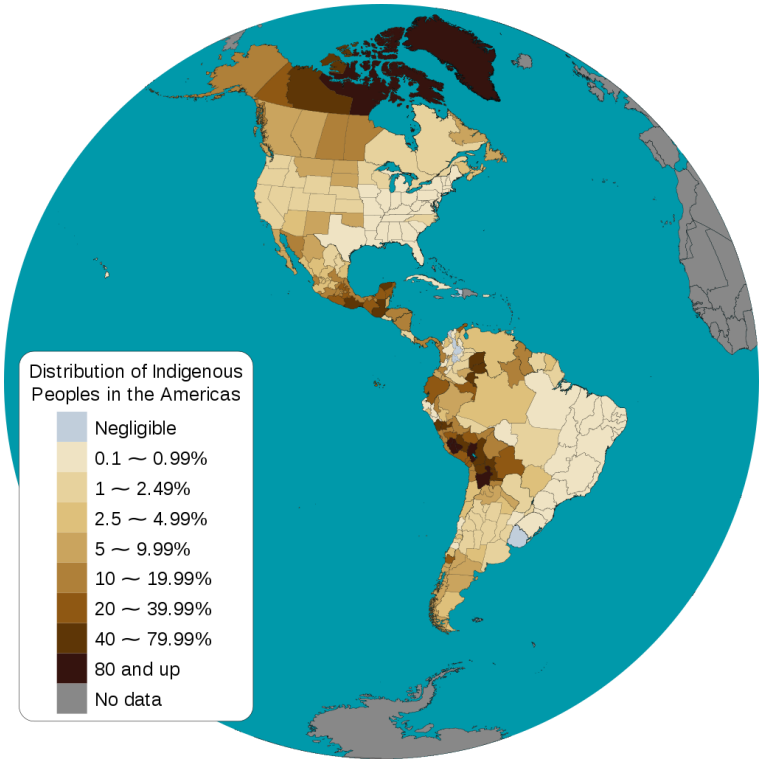
Along the trail you will primarily meet people with a small and often irregular income but this does not constrain their hospitality. In contrast, the rich fence off their properties but the modest living people often open their doors and invite strangers to literally share their bread. When you experience such hospitality be generous. Even if they don't ask for money and seem to reject it be a happy giver. Insist if necessary! Consider that more hikers will come after you and that it would be unreasonable to drain their small income to feed tourists like us.

The middle class from the cities have started to discover the mountains in their vacations. A growing number of Chileans and Argentines begin to hike, mainly in national parks. Many of this novice hikers still lack experience and appropriate gear. Where the GPT passes national parks you will meet such less experienced and sometimes inadequately equipped hikers. Please, don't look down on them but when asked, share your experience and knowledge in a positive manner. The growing number of inexperienced hikers result in normally concerned park rangers especially when walking off the standard trail. You might need to show your GPS and your satellite pager to park rangers to get permission to follow the more remote routes of the GPT.



Picture 41: GPT09: Being the guest of a Pehuenche family in Trapa Trapa. Image: Meylin Ubilla

Owning large plots of land is a status symbol of the rich and super-rich. And this is where the right-of-way trouble often culminates. The rich *patrón* (owner or landlord) of these *fundos* or *haciendas* (large privately-owned plots of land) are rarely there themselves but hire a *cuidador* (caretaker) to maintain their property. Sometimes the *patrón* instructs the *cuidador* to not let anyone pass. How to deal with such a situation I will explain later.



Picture 42: Percentage of indigenous people in the Americas. Image: Wikipedia

The potent overseas immigration into Chile and Argentina and the continuous land grab made the native first nations to a minority in their own homeland. In the area that the GPT traverses only one of the numerous pre-colonial indigenous cultures holds still visible significance: the *Pehuenche* that are considered part of the *Mapuche* group. Most other native cultures are lost and extinct. Starting from section GPT09 to about GPT15 you will meet the *Pehuenche*. But don't expect intact indigenous communities that celebrate their traditional way of live with unity and pride. Centuries of disrespect, economic and social pressure, the forceful formation of a new Chilean identity after the independence from Spain and missionary efforts of various Christian sects have caused deep divides in their communities and resulted in a fractured identity. You may read the Wikipedia articles to the demographics of Chile and Argentina to learn more about the native tribes and ethnic groups that settle this land for thousands of years and the 500 years of post-Columbian immigration into these countries.

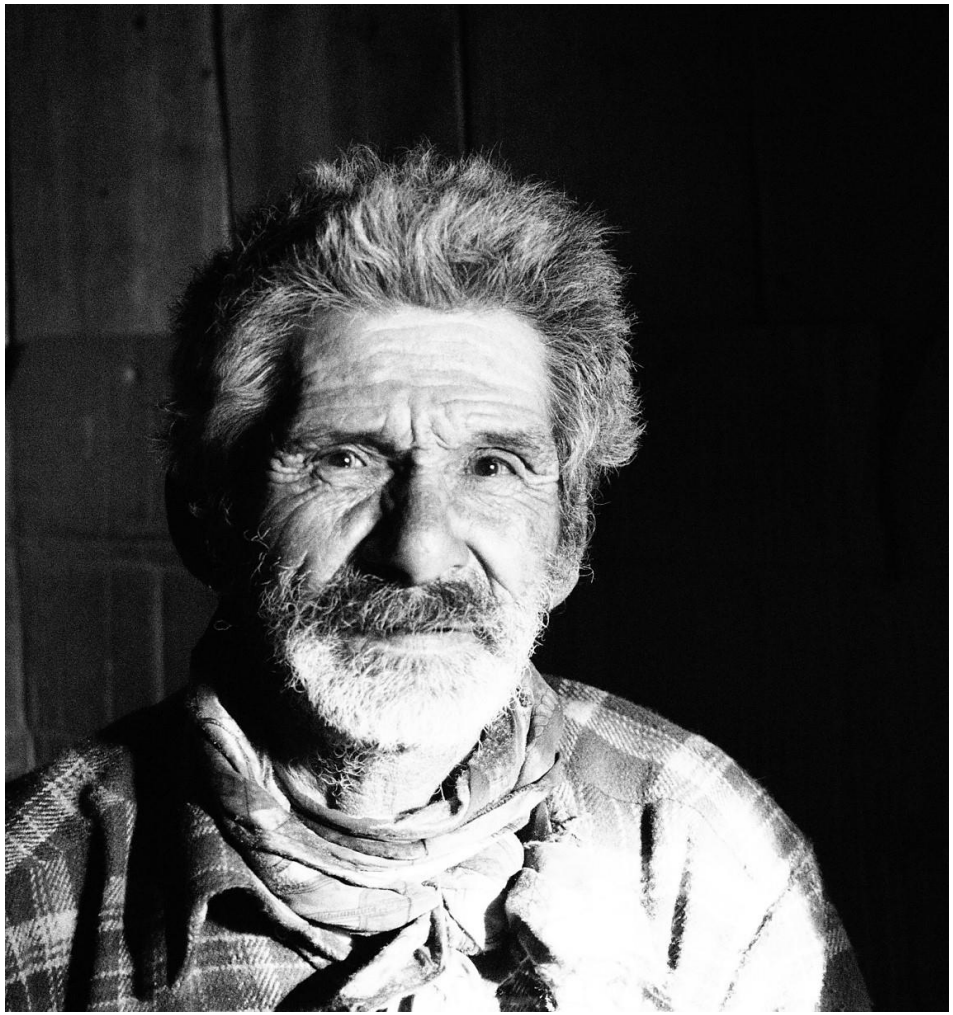
In the following I share some of our lessons learned with the three groups of people that we frequently meet along the trail and a fourth group that we rarely meet in person but that affects a hike:

1. *Arrieros* and *Gauchos* or the cowboys of Chile and Argentina
2. The indigenous population in particular the *Pehuenche*
3. Settlers and homestead farmers that colonized Patagonia
4. The rich and super-rich large estate land holders

I categorize between these groups despite recognizing that you sometimes cannot clearly distinct between the first three. An indigenous *Pehuenche* may work and act like an *arriero* and many settlers have indigenous roots.

1.8.3 Arrieros and Gauchos

From section GPT01 to section GPT09 you will frequently meet men on horses that in late spring drive livestock up in the mountains and watch over it till they drive the animals back down in autumn. These men (but never woman!) get normally employed by the landowner that holds a large plot of land in the mountains. The animals that they watch over are normally owned by several farmers that pay for the service to fatten



Picture 43: GPT36H: Don Heraldo Rial. Image: Paul Bostelmann

their animals during the mountain grazing period. In Chile these caretakers call themselves *arriero* or *puestero* and live during the summer in an improvised shelter or shack that is called *puesto*. From this base they make regular tours on horseback to the cattle, goats and horses that remain under their responsibility. The Argentine term for this profession and lifestyle is *Gaucho*, and that is also occasionally used in southern Chile. These rough men are normally happy to get a visit. If you speak Spanish and engage in a conversation you will often be offered a seat next to the fire and it will not take long till you are offered to drink *Mate* with them. If you are lucky, you might be offered some fresh bread or *tortas* (the short form of *tortas fritas* which is bread baked in hot fat).

When we pass a *puesto* we share at least some words; we explain what we are doing, we often ask for the trail condition and exchange some friendly gossip e.g. whom we met before and ask whom we will meet further down our way. Knowing the names of these people is always a benefit and very useful when asking for permission to pass. If it is late and time to camp we try to sense if we are welcome to stay a night which is normally the case. If yes, then we pitch our tent in the vicinity of the *puesto*.

Nobody knows the area around the *puesto* better than they do. They do not move only along the trails but to any place where their animals are grazing. But their expertise often reaches only to certain point. They might go for 20 years to the same *puesto* and know every tree and boulder on the entrusted land but they might not know what is behind a certain pass in the next valley. So asking them for directions can be very revealing and exceptional helpful but it requires purposeful questions and a wise interpretation of the answers. Don't ask for the walking time and distance in kilometres or miles, but always ask how long it takes them on horseback. Then double this value to estimate your walking time.

If the person is drunk, then it is better to move on quickly. Filled with alcohols these normally friendly men can become annoying and even harassing to women.

1.8.4 Indigenous Population



Picture 44: Mapuche flag.

The tribal land of the *Pehuenche* starts were the first Araucaria trees grow what is two third into section GPT09 and ends somewhere around section GPT19. The *Pehuenche* (“people of *pewen*” in Mapudungun) are an indigenous people who are part of the Mapuche peoples. They live in the Andes in south central Chile and Argentina. Their name derives from their habit of harvesting and eating *piñones*, the seeds of the *Araucaria* tree that is called in Mapudungun *pewen*. In the 14th century, the *Pehuenche* lived in the mountainous territory between the Maule River and the volcano Lonquimay. Later they became “*Araucanized*” and partially merged with the *Mapuche* tribes. The difficult living conditions higher up in the mountains on less fertile land protected the *Pehuenche* to some degree during the main wave of European immigration in the 19th and 20th century. For a long time, their land was simply not attractive enough to be occupied by immigrants.

The *Pehuenche* took over agricultural techniques from the European invaders e.g. the breeding of livestock and the farming of cereals and other crops. Therefore, you will meet along the trail *Pehuenche* in *puestos* that herd cattle, goats and horses like the *arrieros* further north. But in contrast to the *arrieros* you will meet women and entire families, sometimes three generations living together in small shelters. This is a nice change! Some milk their cows and make cheese. In summer and autumn, they harvest the seeds of the *Araucaria* pines called *piñones*.

But be aware that fife centuries of disrespect and oppression made them distrustful and distant. We were occasionally asked if we are researching geologists fearing that we are looking for minerals and taking their land away if we find something precious. But carefully explaining that we are just walking guests that came to admire the beauty of their land often broke the ice.

With these people we had some of the most moving encounters along the entire trail. We spoke about their history, their way of life, their connection with the land and what they desire for their next generation. They bear an identity torn between tradition and living a modern life. Also, Christian sects have caused deep divisions within their communities and families. These tensions make them guarded to speak about their identity and convictions. So, we listen carefully and act cautiously to not make them feel uncomfortable. Once we stepped by accident into their annual religious gathering called *Guillatún*. We were approached by their leaders who kindly asked us to move on and so we did.

Maintaining this balance between interest and quiet respect resulted in wonderful times with these people, e.g. staying a night or even an entire day with them. They taught us how to harvest and open *piñones* from the *Araucaria* trees and how to prepare them for eating. We several times purchased a goat from them to roast it on an open fire and eat it together.



Picture 45: Yaganes people.

The Mapuche that include the Pehuenche people are the only indigenous nation that you now meet in numbers along the GPT. Many other tribes that settled in the Southern Cone were decimated by imported diseases and murdered during the violent occupation of Patagonia. The remaining native survivors got assimilated and few traces of these cultures are left. A terrible example is the Selk'nam genocide at the turn from the 19th to the 20th century. The newly arrived landlords from Europe paid the gauchos to hunt and kill the indigenous people on Tierra del Fuego like game. The murderers were rewarded a bounty for

each killed native, which would be proved by presenting a pair of hands or ears or a skull.

The now extinct Chonos, Kawesqar and Yaganes were the incredibly resilient sea nomads that roamed the Patagonian fjords and channels living as hunter-gatherers. They travelled in open canoes made of bark, wood, and sea lion skins; the ancient packrafters so to say. They lived off what the sea provided: fish, seafood, sea birds, sea lions but also dead whales that were washed ashore. Large deposits of seashells at their now deserted camp sites are one of the few silent reminders. Knowing this should humble every packrafter that ventures into the Patagonian fjords with state-of-the-art packrafts, dry suits, dehydrated food and satellite navigation and communication.



Picture 46: Native population in Chile. Image: Wikipedia

Between the southern part of section GPT09 and section GPT16 hikers may experience the recently increased tensions between the Mapuche and the *winka* (Mapudugun for all non-Mapuche). Tensions are more likely noted in the vicinity of Trapa Trapa are Guallali.

As long as only few hikers traverse this area, the local Mapuche communities will not pay too much attention to the occasional visitor but if the flow of *mochileros* (Spanish for backpackers) increases, a myth may spread that someone is running a hidden tourism business and earning money behind their backs without sharing the profits. This may lead to some people along the route arbitrarily demanding money from hikers. If they are successful in extorting money, neighbours may join in, making it a harassing and unpredictable experience to hike some of these sections in the *Pehuenche* area. Therefore, it is essential that hikers can communicate in Spanish and:

- take the time to listen,
- explain that they are travelling on their own account and that they are not customers of a tourism enterprise,
- that they learned about the route on the internet free of charge,
- that they are guests on the land of *Pehuenche* for a few days and that they are curious to learn more about their culture,
- that they support local businesses by paying for goods and services (shops, camp sites, accommodation) and
- outline with what goods and services they may profit from individual hikers.

The tensions are not so much driven by the long-established population but by young adults that have lived a few years in the major cities of Chile and that returned with anger and the will to escalate conflicts. This may complicate communication. Therefore, attempts will be made to investigate and publish alternative routes that bypass the settlement areas where tensions are more likely.

1.8.5 Settlers and Homestead Farmers

With the term settler I refer to the people that call themselves *colonos* or *pobladores* and who's ancestors moved into Patagonia at the end of the 19th century and during the 20th century. The term *colonos* is typically used for the first generation of settlers while the term *pobladores* refers to all decedents. *"Hacer patria"*, or in English "making homeland" was and is the motive that drove these people into this challenging land and makes them stay despite the continued hardship. When walking on the GPT you will regularly meet the second, third and fourth generation of these settlers all the way from section GPT15 to GPT38.



Picture 47: GPT22: Homestead farmer at the Río Puelo. Image: Jan Dudeck

In the second half of the 19th century, around 50 years after gaining independence from Spain, the Chilean and Argentine government breached the agreements with the native population and forcefully took control of the parts of Patagonia that the Spanish colonizers did not conquer during the three centuries of their rule before. It was simply the political mindset of this time that each nation takes the land that they have the power to grab. And racism dominated the thinking so the ruling class of decedents from Europeans were looking for people of their kind to replace the indigenous population to "cultivate" the land.

Cheap and even free land was promised to troubled and impoverished Europeans. But also Chilean and Argentine citizens were seeking their luck by moving out of the established settling areas into the seemingly virgin land of Patagonia. Laws were created to promote settling this vast region. Whoever "cultivates" a piece of land could apply for land ownership titles after a couple of years. But the sustainable way of life of the indigenous population, that utilizes smaller plots of land at a time did not qualify to be regarded as the righteous owners.



Picture 48: GPT26: The remaining skeletons of the incinerated forest decades after the fire. Image: Jan Dudeck

The harsh climate and the remote location of Patagonia means that "cultivating" is generally understood as growing livestock for sale and having some homestead farming to produce food for self-consumption. Grazing land was often created with fire. Prospective settlers made expeditions in search for promising patches of land, they incinerated the forest and quickly left hoping that the fire takes down a good part of the forest. In the following years they came back, seeded grass and burned down more forest. Once sufficient patches of grazing land had formed they moved in with cattle, sheep and horses and built basic houses to create their personal piece of homeland.

From today's perspective this is a brute violation of the native nations and their homeland. But I'm not writing this to question or to justify the legitimacy of the settlers to life on this land. History can't be turned back, and this past injustice can neither be undone without new injustice nor can it be plausibly justified. I'm writing this to create a more factual understanding of the actual sequence of events that is less blurred by the romantic imagination of homestead farming. I want to outline the ambivalent history that

permits you now to personally discover this land on trails that these settlers created and that are now part of the GPT. I hope to open the eyes of prospective hikers for these courageous people to not walk by with ignorance.

If you consider yourself a tough and enduring hiker then imagine the hardship and persistence of these settlers in comparison. They moved in without being guided by maps and GPS and without your functional ultra-light gear. There were no trails, there were no shops on the route to occasionally resupply and their stay was not limited to the few months with more suitable weather. They had to make a living by producing more than they consumed to have something to sell off with a profit. Therefore, if you meet these settlers don't seek admiration for what you are doing because it's just hilarious. What we hikers do nowadays is just "a stroll in the woods" compared to the challenges that these settlers faced. Therefore, be a humble guest that admires the endurance of these settlers without expecting to be treated like a celebrity for your little adventure.

Many of these settlers are proud of their heritage and enjoy sharing their history. That's an opportunity that we rarely miss. We enjoy listening to them before we speak about our own little adventure and our trail publishing project. If you are also open for this opportunity than hiking on the GPT will become a unique and authentic experience that shows you much more than just a trail.

Hospitality and a fair cooperation between settlers is part of the culture and it's your responsibility to maintain this attitude by not abusing it. Keep in mind that they face the continued challenge to make a living and if you receive something, like food or accommodation then don't take it for granted but pay what is reasonable even if you are not asked for money. These settlers are no trail angels that live along the route for your comfort; you are the unexpected guest that hugely benefits from their trail building efforts.

It's a culture in decline. Few of their children continue this way of live and you will often meet people above 60 years of age. For

the younger generation moving into a town seems more promising than the burden of making a living on the *campo* (cultivated land). Therefore, pay respect to each settler because their continued endurance keeps the trails open for you. If you have the opportunity to outline how a sustainable form of tourism can supplement their culture and way of life then show this perspective especially to the few younger settlers that you can still meet occasionally along the trail. The future of the Greater Patagonian Trail is linked with the future of these settlers.

If the children of these settlers move out then sooner or later the land will be sold to the highest bidder. And the interest in this land is constantly growing, regardless how remote it is; rich Chileans and foreigners will buy it. And this gets us to the forth category of “hosts”.

1.8.6 Large Estate Landowners

There are few fields in which Chile outclasses North America and Europe but one sector that Chile masters well is inequality. The top 10% of the population pocket 60% of the national income while the bottom half lives on just 10% of the national income. And it gets more insane when looking at the top 1%; they “earn” more than one quarter of the national income[13]. No industrialized country gets close to this. This wealth was rarely accumulated by being particularly innovative but by using inherited assets and social status to control the profitable parts of the economy and by exploiting natural resources.

One way to express the socio-economic status in Chile is buying large plots of land. Therefore, a small elite buys a large share of the land that becomes available on the market or what is more lucrative; the trick struggling settlers with unethical means into

[13] https://wid.world/country/chile/

selling their land. While investigating the GPT we were told dozens of such stories and it did not appear just hearsay to us.

Once these superrich secured the land, they build exclusive lodges for themselves and their families and hire others to manage these estates all year around. Occasionally, the owner then flies in for a few days or weeks but spends in general rather little time on the remote property.

Therefore, hikers that cross such properties barely ever meet the owner but must deal with the *cuidador* (caretaker). The *patrón* (landlord) often instructed the *cuidador* how do deal with the occasional trespasser and somewhat frightened the *cuidador* typically asks you to leave. But other reactions are also possible. If the *patrón* is not around he might let you pass or even camp a night as long he can trust that his *patron* will not find out. Or, if the *patron* did not issue specific instructions you might even stay a night with the caretaker.

When we run into a *cuidador* we typically ask first several questions to better understand the situation and we keep a low profile without telling anything about the GPT. We understand that the *cuidador* is in a tricky situation and that he cannot freely use his lend power.

Should you meet by accident the landlord on his property then another reaction is also possible, especially when you are a *gringo*. If he finds you interesting, he might invite you. Of cause, this is rather rare, but some hikers experienced this. Chileans are less likely to become guests, especially if they are from a lower social class.

1.8.7 Spoken Language

After the arrival of Europeans in the 16th century most indigenous communities in the Southern Cone were completely destroyed. With this practically all native languages vanished in the region that became in the 19th century Chile and Argentina. Spanish or colloquial *Castellano* became the new lingua franca in these countries. Only the Mapuche[14] managed to keep their language in some regions alive but practically all *Mapudungun* speaker are bilingual and speak Spanish[15]. This is different to other Latin American countries in which indigenous communities and their languages are better preserved till today.

The dominance of the Spanish language makes it for most citizen of Chile and Argentina irrelevant and difficult to learn other languages. Also, the governments of Chile and Argentina put little emphasis on teaching indigenous and foreign languages as a single common language was considered essential for nation building. Now, most schools teach some English, but this is rarely enough to develop conversational skills. Of cause, a growing number of people become proficient in English, but this requires either personal initiative or well-off parents that can effort



Picture 49: Remaining indigenous languages.
Image: www.languagesgulper.com

[14] Also some pockets of Aymara speaker remain in the north of Chile in the border area to Bolivia but this has no relevance for the GPT.
[15] Only in the area of Trapa Trapa on section GPT10 and GPT11 we met a few elderly people that barely spoke Spanish but their adult children and grandchildren where happy to translate.

sending their kids to expensive international schools. Therefore, don't expect anyone along the GPT to speak any English, especially none of the *Arrieros*, *Pehuenche*, *pobladores*, *cuidadores* or *Carabineros*. On the trail you must be able to explain yourself in Spanish. Speaking English slowly and loudly will not get you anywhere.

Fortunately, the spoken Spanish is rather uniform and does not split in heavy dialects. The differences in pronunciation and vocabulary within the Spanish speaking world are moderate, therefore these variations rarely create a language barrier especially when using an educated more formal language.

It's primarily the colloquial vocabulary that differs between countries and regions[16]. So, what's an offensive swearing or nasty insult in one region might be harmless or meaningless in a different place. These differences create an occasional laughter and often identify the country of origin of the speaker. Therefore, if you learned Spanish somewhere else, allow some time to tune in to understand *los weones y boludos de Chile y Argentina*.

[16] If you have a solid Spanish base and enjoy a playful use of language than I highly recommend the book "Streetwise Spanish Dictionary/Thesaurus" (ISBN-13: 978-0844225517).

1.8.8 Women Hikers on the GPT

As a male hiker I do not consider myself completely incompetent to write to this subject, but it is much more appropriate that female hikers share their experience and advise to this topic. Therefore, I invited several women that hiked the GPT “man-less” to speak directly to future hikers.

1.8.8.1 Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed

In general, safety when traveling abroad is the same for everyone. As two women traveling through Patagonia we did feel the effects of the *machista* thinking but this largely amounted to more of a nuisance than a danger. Still, we made a conscious decision to err on the side of caution when dealing with questionable situations, whether they be high rivers or strange men. These were a few of the precautions we believe contributed to our positive experience along the Greater Patagonian Trail:



Picture 50: GPT26: Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed who hiked the length of the GPT “man-less”.

- **Work within cultural norms**: If travelling as a woman alone you are already challenging most Patagonians perception of women (tourism industry excluded). Be prepared to be stared at and questioned about your relationship status. Even if there are multiple of you, if you do not have a man with you, you will be regarded *viajando solas* (travelling alone).

- **Dress modestly**: In the campo, you do not often see skin for practical reasons of the conditions and work. I abandoned a cute summer dress I brought to wear while doing laundry in town because of the amount of staring and *piropos* (things men shout or grunt at you). Even in leggings, we got a lot of long looks. Short shorts may be viewed as inappropriate or provocative, particularly as those who reside in the campo are often elders. So, if the Calafate thorns don't deter you from wearing booty shorts, maybe the disapproving eyes of a grandmother or lustful staring of a farm hand will.

- **Be married**: When we didn't feel up to playing the "20 questions about your relationship status" game, we found it easier just to answer that yes, we were happily married. Lauren went so far as to move a ring she wore to her wedding finger to back her story.

- **Avoid potentially misinterpreted situations**: A woman who is not married is, to most Patagonian minds, is just not married YET. You will be approached, questioned, hit on, and offered marriage. I am not here to defend nor defame that, these are simply the methods we engaged to avoid situations where our presence as single women could be misinterpreted or taken advantage of:

- **We did not go out after dark**. This was easy in the pueblos, where everything shuts down anyway. In the cities there tended to be more activity in the late evenings, we generally tried to have everything we needed done before or immediately after siesta. Particularly tasks like withdrawing cash or finding alcohol for our stoves.

- **We did not drink**. Except in tourist establishments adjoining a place we were staying or when bringing wine to a dinner event. Essentially, we avoided being seen on the streets with alcohol.

- **We avoid city wide parties** (*fiestas*). Perhaps we missed out on interesting cultural events but the prevalence of drunkenness and the tendency of these events to run into the night squarely put these events off our gamut of activities. Also, very little tends to be open during these sometimes 4-day-long events so resupplying was difficult and, in our estimation, the general mayhem was better off avoided. If going to such a *fiesta costumbrista*, go there right when it starts but leave early.

- **Precautions**: We took the time to establish a “safe word” between the two of us. If either felt unsafe in a situation, using this word meant we left together, immediately. We also each carried pepper spray which was confiscated at one border crossing and later returned by the guard.

Only once during our walk across Patagonia was I overtly grabbed and held against my will by a man. That was the only time I felt unsafe and when I spoke to some new friends in the village, the men quickly stepped away and addressed the situation. By and large the people of Patagonia are extremely kind and interested in protecting you, often citing their own daughters as the reason.

Bonus note: Tampons are expensive and can be hard to find in Patagonia (in the small towns your best chance is to find them over the counter at pharmacies) so I recommend having your birth control regimen planned and/or bring something like a Diva Cup 🌎 to avoid the hassle.

1.8.8.2 Kathrin Merz

Honestly, I didn’t have any problems, scary situations whatsoever. Generally, I felt like men treated me with respect. The worst that happened were guys just staring at me or ignoring me completely but even that was rarely the case. Most were very friendly and helpful even invited me to have lunch with them or offered to carry my backpack on their horses.

Of course, I got asked all the time if I´m not scared and my reply always was: “Why should I be scared?”. ALWAYS the answer was “Because of the puma and bad people!”. So I told them that it wouldn’t make sense for a puma to attack me as there were enough goats and sheeps around which where a lot easier prey. Everyone agreed. For the bad people I told them that I only met nice people so far and that I think generally that the *campo* is very safe and you are a lot more likely to encounter problems with people in big cities. Again, everyone agreed. So no reason to be scared!

Generally, I felt really safe and much more like people wanted to protect me than to harm me. The only thing I did for my safety (and I would do that in other countries and places as well) was avoiding *puestos* or small settlements in the afternoon and evening to avoid possible encounters with drunk people as I feel, these are the only people that might be dangerous (again, all over the world). At the beginning of my journey I had such an encounter with a drunk guy; nothing happened he was just drunk and didn’t do anything bad at all but I felt really uncomfortable and decided to just avoid similar situations if possible.

I would totally recommend the GPT to other solo female hikers. Go for it!

1.8.9 Security, Police and Borders



Picture 51: GPT07: Chatting with the officers at the forward police check point Carrisales. Image: Jan Dudeck

In the bigger cities, especially in bus stations, you need to be cautious with petty crime. But once you get out of the cities into the rural areas people live a tranquil life and sometimes don't even lock the doors of their houses. I do not recall any scary situation with people along the GPT and only very few instances in which distrust was advisable. But when you meet drunk people be cautious and keep distance. With alcohol these sometimes shy people can get annoying and even harassing in particular with women. In such a situation the best response is to move on.

When hiking the GPT you will be most of the time in close proximity to the border that delimits Chile from Argentina. It's a seemingly open border with a *hito* (boundary mark) every few kilometers. Official border crossings can be 200 km apart. But don't mistake this as an invitation to cross the border where you wish! Both countries are very touchy with their borders and both countries run random police patrols on horse to monitor their boundaries. In particular the *Carabineros* (Chilean police) has many permanent police posts in the vicinity of the border and establishes additional temporary police outposts during summer to monitor movements and prevent contraband in the borderland. On the other side of the border In Argentina the *Gendarmería* (Argentine police) has less posts but also run occasional patrols. We had to show our passports numerous times in the middle of nowhere just to confirm that we entered the country legally on one of the few *pasos habilitados* (official border crossing location).

If they find you “on the wrong” side of the border because you have crossed the border illegally expect to be fined, deported and punished with an entry ban for an extended period. That’s the certain end of your hike on the GPT. Especially Chile is very strict and unforgiving. Also, if you are not checked after an illegal border crossing you are not out of trouble. You can be certain that without a valid tourist permit you will not have a trouble-free departure for your flight home. Therefore, enter both countries only through the official doors, respect the house rules and never climb in through a window even if the window is wide open with the window ledge conveniently low.



Picture 52: GPT07: Piia and Oliver at a forward police post after the first phase with much officialdom is over. Image: Piia Kortsalo and Oliver Barker

Don’t be a fool that carries drugs when hiking the GPT. As stated before there are numerous permanent and temporary police posts in the vicinity of the border to prevent smuggling. One of the concerns is drug trafficking. Because hikers are still a rare occurrence police may wonder why someone roams the border area and what might be hidden in the backpack. Some hikers got searched in detail for drugs. If they find something illegal in your backpack, even small amounts, you can be certain to feel the tight grip of the strict drug trafficking laws. The Chilean *Carabineros* are famous for not taking bribes therefore you cannot buy your way out. So

don’t be a fool and don’t carry drugs, not even small amounts.



Picture 53: GPT07: Being invited for lunch and a glas of wine at the forward police check point El Dial. Image: Jan Dudeck

Note, that drinking alcohol in public is a legal offense in Chile. Especially in towns this may be enforced by police. So don’t take a seat on the town’s *plaza* with a couple of beers. In theory police can detain you for drinking in public but rarely do this with tourists. If you want to chill out with a couple drinks better do this in your hostel or on any private (camp) ground.

But don’t be scared of the police after having read all this. The Chilean *Carabineros* and Argentine *Gendarmería* are correct, friendly and helpful if you respect the “house rules”. When we pass a forward police post we never sneak around but always present ourselves and explain our plans. We often got helpful information and were sometimes invited by the police to stay the night if it was too late to move on.

I highly recommend reading Piia’s and Oliver’s experiences with the police along the trail 🌎. I could not have described it better. Have also a look what Bethany and Lauren write about their encounters with the Carabineros in Chile 🌎.

1.8.10 Rescue System

Chile and Argentina have limited rescue capabilities if compared with North America and Europe. There seams no clear procedures in place to ensure that experienced and properly equipped personal respond quickly to an emergency in remote areas of the Andes. Technically the police are in charge, but they often lack the expertise and equipment to respond quickly to a distress call. So don't expect that a helicopter hovers over you an hour after you push the emergency button on your InReach or Spot satellite transmitter. They might send out a police patrol on horse the next day but if they don't have a GPS (or don't know how to use it) it might take a while till they reach you. In some areas private and government owned helicopters are stationed but to my knowledge these are not integrated in a fast response rescue system.

Before you depart make arrangements for emergencies. You will need someone Spanish speaking who is able to coordinate and follow up rescue efforts if needed.

And more important: Take every opportunity to not do stupid things while you are out there. Prevent accidents in the first place.

1.8.11 Tourist Visas

Most citizens from Europe and North America do not need a visa to visit Chile or Argentina as tourists. These citizens must present a valid passport at the border control to receive a 90-day tourist permit. Selected nationalities must pay a reciprocity fee when coming to Chile or Argentina[17]. Citizen from numerous Asian and African countries must apply for a visa in advance. Check the immigration rules before travelling to avoid unpleasant surprises.



Picture 54: Argentine and Chilean entry and exit stamps. Image: Jan Dudeck

The Chilean and Argentine border controls are often several hours walking distance apart and placed a good distance from the actual border. Joint border checkpoints exist only on a few heavily travelled passes. When arriving at the airport or when crossing the border by bus or car you cannot miss the passport control but don't assume this when hiking. At several *pasos habilitados* (border checkpoints) in remote areas you can easily walk past the border control without getting your passport stamped but this gets you in serious trouble later. Therefore, knock on the door if nobody is around and make sure to collect your exit stamp before hiking over the border. At the receiving border control your passport will be checked to verify that you got your exit stamp. Without this exit stamp you will be denied entry and sent back. After you got your entry stamp[18] you are free to travel the country for up to 90 days.

[17] Australian, Canadian and US citizens were affected but rules and regulations change frequently. Argentina requires this fee to be paid in advance online.
[18] In Chile you get in addition a small leaflet that need show occasionally and that gets collected by the police when leaving the country. So keep this paper in your passport.

The Main Route from section GPT01 to GPT22 is nearly completely on Chilean soil and too long to be conveniently hiked within 3 months. Therefore, a hike with connecting footsteps that starts on section GPT01 normally requires a renewal or extension of the 90-day tourist permit. The easiest way to renew a tourist permit is travelling from Chile to Argentina before completing your 90 days and returning to Chile a few days later. On re-entry into Chile you will normally be granted another 90-day tourist permit even if you remained only one or two days in Argentina[19]. Between sections GPT13 and GPT20 are various suitable passes with border checkpoints for a “visa-renewal-trip”. You may either use public transportation to the next town on the Argentine side or walk. For detailed information see chapter 3.5.2 Tourist Permit Extension “Visa-Renewal-Trips” on page 1167. You may combine such a “visa-renewal-trip” with a resupply stop in a town on the other side of the border[20].

Alternatively, you can request a 90-day-extension of your tourist permit in Chile. This can be done in any of the 54 provincial capitals of Chile. Talca, Chillan, Los Angeles, Temuco, Puerto Montt and Coyhaique are possible choices but only Coyhaique is conveniently close to the trail. On Wikipedia you find a full list of the Chilean provinces with their provincial capitals 🌎.

If starting further south e.g. between section GPT13 and section GPT17[21] then the first border crossing from Chile to Argentina will be reached after 4 to 8 weeks on section GPT22 what is well within the 90-day tourist permit.

The Main Route crosses the border between Chile and Argentina on sections GPT22, GPT26 and GPT38. This automatically resets your tourist permit and is normally sufficient to hike and paddle the southern half of the GPT with connecting footsteps.

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[19] This is a distinct difference to Europe where a visa-free access to the Schengen states permits only 90 days within any 180-day period.
[20] When doing a resupply trip over the border consider the import restrictions for fresh food.
[21] Starting on section GPT17H or GPT17P also benefits an earlier departure because various sections in the north open up later due to high river levels during the spring snowmelt.

1.8.12 Accommodations



Picture 55: GPT22: Being an unexpected paying guest of homestead farmers in the remote backcountry of Cochamó. Image: Jan Dudeck

You normally find a wide range of accommodation in the towns and villages of Chile and Argentina. Most hostels and hotels are privately run small businesses. Some residents recognize the growing flux of tourists as a business opportunity and convert unused rooms into accommodations or attach new constructions to their home to accommodate paying guests. Therefore, you often stay in the same house with your hosts. When looking for accommodation check for signs that advertise *residencial, hostal*, *hospedaje*, *alojamiento, cabaña* or hotel. The precise difference between these categories is blurry therefore best compare if you see various options. It is not rude asking to see the room and move on to compare various accommodations before making your choice.

Some rooms have a *baño privado* (private bathroom) others a *baño compartido* (shared bathroom). Sometimes you can use the kitchen or a common guest area with cooking facilities. Breakfast might be included in the room rate or not. You need to ask for all these details when asking for the price. If breakfast is included, then don't expect an all-you-can-eat buffet that calms your trail hunger. You will get a counted number of buns, marmalade, maybe cheese and ham and coffee or tea. Internet is often available but might be slow if the area is not well connected.

A particularly nice option to rest and resupply are *cabañas*. These are small houses with a kitchen or cooking area and separate sleeping rooms. Here you can spread out, clean yourself and your gear, cook and relax and get ready for the next sections. Such *cabañas* are normally a bit more expensive than a just a room but the price difference is not necessarily excessive.

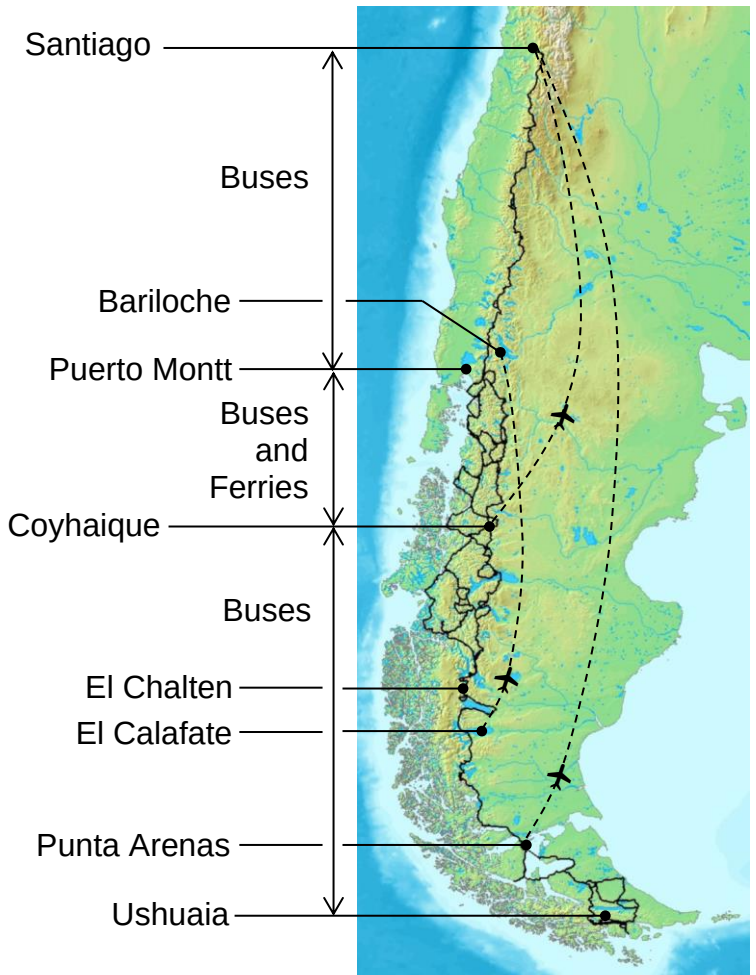
Camping in towns and villages is often possible and typically slightly cheaper than basic rooms. In particular in Argentina most towns and villages have municipal and privately-run campgrounds in proximity to the center. An *asador* or *parrilla* (fireplace to grill meat) is normally available especially in meat-loving Argentina. It's not uncommon that entire families visit these places during daytime for an extended feast and return home in the evening.

Finding a bed in a particularly remote area is more tricky but often possible if you enjoy conversation with local residents and cultural immersion. For many homestead settlers the main income is growing and selling livestock and generating some extra cash by hosting tourists is rather new. If we pass such a homestead farm in the evening hours and prefer a bed over our tent, then we often ask who in the area offers accommodation or where we may pitch our tent for one night. This gives the settler the opportunities to reply without feeling pressured in a certain way. He can either state that he does know (happens rarely), he can offer you to camp on his farm (a quite common answer) or he can offer sharing his home (also a frequent response). We stayed a couple of times in the deserted children's room that became unoccupied when the kids moved out. For us this has proved the best way to learn more about the land and the people. We often spent long evenings cooking together and learning how they moved into this area decades ago and how they make their living. Such encounters need a respectful and sensitive attitude to make it a positive experience for all. And please, don't assume that these settlers are "trail angels" making "trail magic" for you. Pay what is reasonable even if not asked for money. Insist to give what is appropriate to maintain this culture.

1.8.13 Public Transportation

Chile and Argentina have an efficient public transportation system that reaches to the last village even in remote areas. The reason is simple: many citizens either don't have a car or cannot afford to use their cars for each and every activity. This creates a market that is served by a wide range of private companies. A few big enterprises maintain high-quality long-distance bus networks that connect all cities and major towns. A larger number of mid-size companies serve specific regions. And many smaller companies maintain regular mini-bus connections in rural areas. In the Patagonian fjords ferries are an important component of the public transportation system. And as stated before the government also subsidizes public transport into particular remote places that would otherwise not be served by profit-oriented companies.

These buses are the best way to travel in Chile and Argentina. For longer distances I recommend night buses. If you can afford some luxury take a "Premium" service on a night bus to have a seat that can be converted into a long flat bed. Only when travelling between Santiago de Chile, Coyhaique and Punta Arenas a domestic flight is normally a better choice that is often not more expensive than bus if the ticket is purchased long in advance. In Argentina a flight between Bariloche and El Calafate might be an option.



Picture 56: GPT01 to GPT69 and transportation recommendations for Chile and Argentina

All these buses and boats operate with reliable schedules and significant delays are rare. All major bus companies have an internet presence, and you can plan and purchase your trip online. Many of the mid-size companies publish at least their routes and schedules on the internet. With the smaller buses in the more rural areas (*buses rurales*) the story is a bit different. Schedules are rarely published on the internet and if published they might be outdated. The best way to find out or to double check is to ask shop keepers or local residents along the route.



Picture 57: Travelling with a minibus in Chile. Image: Jan Dudeck

Getting your ticket for long-distance bus rides (*buses interurbanos*) a day or some hours in advance is advisable especially during peak season. But if you do not have the opportunity to do this just ask for the next available bus in the bus station. Check and compare in the bus stations the different companies as often several companies serve the same main routes. If you already have a ticket be at the *anden* (bus gate) at least 15 minutes before departure; most buses are very punctual and do not wait even a minute for late passengers.

Bigger luggage is stored in the bus luggage compartment and you normally get a small paper slip for each item that gets loaded. Keep this paper as you need it to get your luggage back on arrival. This system is reliable, and I never experienced or heard of lost or stolen luggage on such bus trips. For better protection we pack sensible items in the centre of backpack and we put the

backpack in a big garbage back or a *matutera* (cheap and simple bag with a zipper) that we give away after the bus ride.

Long-distance buses stop normally only in bus stations, but the regional and rural buses stop on request anywhere along the route. To take a bus on a regional or rural road don't look for a bus stop sign; just wait anywhere along the road where you can see the bus early and where the bus driver can see you and stop safely. When you see a bus approaching wave to signal your desire to take this bus. Have your hand luggage ready and separated as bigger backpacks normally get loaded in the luggage compartment.

Depending on the demand the bus frequency can vary considerably. Really remote places might only be served by two or three buses per week while routes with high demand can have a bus every few minutes and don't operate by schedule but when sufficient paying passengers boarded the bus.

Prices for all these buses are set by the bus company and not subject to bargaining. Pay what you are asked for and don't be afraid that a foreigner gets charged a different fare. We never experienced a rip-off when travelling by bus in Chile or Argentina.

Despite the good public transportation system hikers will rely for a few lake and river crossings on private boat transfers. In order to traverse sections GPT21 and GPT22 without a packraft you need to approach settlers along the trail and ask for their service. Maintaining a boat and getting gasoline in these remote areas is complicated and costly therefore this service is not a bargain. Ask for the price in advance.

Hitchhiking can be a suitable alternative to waiting for buses. In the more remote areas, fewer vehicles will pass but on vacant roads drivers are more likely to stop and carry hitchhikers. Several hikers found hitchhiking along the GPT fairly easy if compared to other countries. Piia and Oliver had a special trick; they used a sign "*Tenemos chocolate*" ("We have chocolate"). We also took in a few instances a taxi or a *flete* (cargo taxi; typically, a pickup truck) to get to the trail head or bridge a less attractive road section with motorized transportation instead of walking on gravel roads.

To cross Lago General Carrera (GPT34H) and Lago O'Higgins (GPT37H) you rely on ferries. The same applies after packrafting down the Río Palena (GPT28P) and may come handy when travelling the Packrafting Specials (GPT75P to GPT77P). Check the schedule long before you arrive and try to get your ticket in advance. During the main travel season the demand occasionally exceeds the available seats and travellers without a ticket may need to wait several days.



Picture 58: GPT76: Arriving in Chaiten by Ferry from Puerto Montt. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.8.14 Postal System

The product range in smaller villages and towns is limited. Replacement gear like quality hiking shoes are difficult to source along the trail and bringing such items from overseas or purchasing it in advance in Santiago is advisable. Also special dehydrated trekking food may not be available in smaller towns. If you prefer to prepare your own resupply-bounce-box with replacement gear and special food, then you may use the postal or *encomienda* system to ship a package in between resupply towns. There are various delivery companies in Chile. *Correos de Chile* is the state-run mail system but private shipment companies like *Starken* and *ChileExpress* offer similar but more rapid services. Before planning with a bounce-box check the maximum storage time of the logistics provider. *Starken* reduced some time ago the guaranteed holding period from 30 days to 15 days which makes this service less practical for endurance-hikers that prefer to combine multiple sections into a long unbroken hike.

We used a resupply-bounce-box during our first two investigation hikes in the area between Santiago and Puerto Montt (GPT01 and GPT21) where these delivery companies have many offices. But south of Puerto Montt (GPT22 to GT40) we felt a bounce-box might complicate logistics because the number of pick-up points is quite limited. Not using a bounce-box preserves the freedom to change and adapt the section sequence.

If you are interested in this option then you should read Piia's and Oliver's valuable advice based on their resupply strategy and their experience with the Chilean *encomienda* system during their 1500 km hike. They provide an excellent description to which I have nothing to add.

1.8.15 Resupply Infrastructure



Picture 59: Our favorite resupply supermarket chain in Chile: Jumbo. Image: Wikipedia

The resupply infrastructure is comparable to the public transportation system. You have big chain supermarkets in the larger towns; you have mid-size shops in smaller towns and mini-shops or kiosks in villages and small settlements.

The big chain supermarkets have all the features and standards of the big supermarkets in the western world. When stepping into such a super-market you see little that is distinctively Chilean or Argentine; it's the modern bright and shiny shopping culture. Our favourite supermarket chain in Chile is "*Jumbo*" who offers a wide range of dehydrated food and a good selection of imported products from the US and Europe. This provides some extra options to vary the diet on the trail. In second and third place after our favourite supermarket chain rank "*Lider*" and "*Totus*". In Argentina "*La Anónima*" offers a generally good selection of dehydrated food. If you are fancy on good cooking in the wild, then take your time and stroll through the aisles of these big supermarkets and try something new. For imported products expect to pay twice as much as in the country of origin. Therefore, shopping at these big supermarkets is generally more expensive and requires substantially more time as these large supermarkets are located only in the bigger towns that are often far off the GPT and require a longer resupply trip.

In smaller towns your choices will be more limited but sufficient to resupply if your food desires are not too specific. You often have several shops, and it might be worth checking more than one market to compare the range of products available. Shopping here

might need more imagination to assemble your meals. E.g. you will probably not find dehydrated pasta sauces as in the big supermarkets, but plain tomato soup powder can do just as well if adding some spices.

In the more remote areas you occasionally find mini-shops or kiosks. You can sometimes recognize these shops on small colorful flags that may advertise specific food brands. These mini-shops are rarely the main source of income for the shop keeper, so don't expect too much. Here you have quite limited choices, but such places are good to stretch your supplies to extend your hiking range or to enjoy the unexpected luxury of a sweat soft drink, canned fruit or sometimes even ice cream. You can typically buy pasta, rice, oil, milk powder, *harina tostada* (more to this later), a variety of sweet drinking powders, cookies and corn flakes or similar over-sugared cereals. If you desire a cold beer you typically have to ask specifically for it as these mini-shops and kiosks rarely have a license to sell alcohol openly but they often do it "under the counter" on request. These mini-shops and kiosks are normally closed but you will often find a bell or you simply knock on the door or ask in the adjacent buildings for the shop keeper. Do not be shy in these circumstances and be prepared to wait patiently. If someone is around they will open the shop just for your, but if nobody is at home you will need to move on and try your luck some-where else.



Picture 60: GPT06: Kiosk. Image: Jan Dudeck

The *puesteros* and homestead farmers along the trail may also sell some food. Since the number of hikers is still quite low many are not aware what products and services they can offer to earn some extra cash. Therefore, we often ask specifically. If we see some tempting fruits and vegetables in the garden we ask if they will sell us some. If we see chicken running around, this means eggs might be in supply. If we are really lucky and they recently slaughtered an animal, we might even be able to buy some meat. If you don't want to rely on your luck to eat big portions of meat then you may ask if they sell an entire goat or lamb (more on this later). Don't worry, you don't need to butcher it yourself; they can do it for you. Flour to bake bread is something that most people along the trail have in abundance. Buying a kilogram or two is often possible. To not pressure a person in selling, we often ask indirectly. E.g. we ask "Who in the area may sell us flour or bread?". This gives the asked person the possibility to say: "I do!" or to refer to someone else or to say that he does not know. Feel free to ask in this way, what really matters is that you pay what is appropriate.

What we do when we prepare for a particular long combination of sections is carry extra rations of powdered sauces for pasta and rice, plenty of spices and other light weight things. Along the way we then purchase extra packs of pasta and rice in



Picture 61: GPT22: Fresh lettuce from a homestead farmer after a week on the trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

mini-shops and kiosks or bread and meat from *puesteros* and homestead farmers. Such a flexible resupply strategy can extend your hiking range considerably and makes it less important to precisely plan your daily rations. If you can't obtain what you need you may leave the trail on a section end to resupply before you run out of food. But if you get sufficient extra food along the trail you just add one or more sections without spending valuable time in transit between the trail and a resupply town. This permits you to remain two to three weeks on the trail and hiking such a longer unbroken timespan creates the immersive experience that you might love as much as we do.



Picture 62: GPT21: Minimarket El Poncho. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 63: GPT21: El Poncho: Small but sufficient to restock. Image: Jan Dudeck

From sections GPT01 to GPT04 you can resupply reasonably well on the trail. The product range in the few mid-size shops is not overwhelming but sufficient to assemble food rations with some variability.

On the roughly 750 km that follow the situation is different. From the start of section GPT05 to the finish of section GPT12 you will find only 4 or 5 mini-shops that may help to stretch your food reserves, but the limited choice of products and the intermittent attendance of the shop keepers makes these mini-shops unreliable for a planned full restock. There are also no postal stations

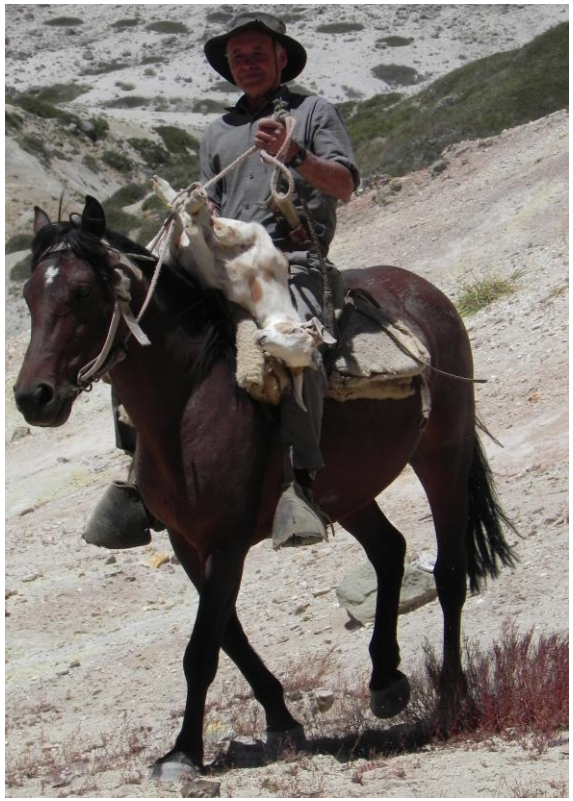
along this route that may receive and hold shipments. Therefore, the only practical way to resupply in this area is leaving the trail by bus or by car, shop and rest in a town a good distance off the trail and return to the same point by bus or by car to continue hiking.

South of GPT13 hikers may resupply along the trail better but selections in the mostly small shops are quite limited so an occasional resupply trip to a bigger town will be convenient and add more variety into your trail meals.

When resupplying consider that the rhythm of Patagonia is neither rushed nor focused on efficiency. The siesta is observed in almost every town throughout the region. Smaller businesses close roughly between 1 and 4, though even those hours are subject to whim. Shops rarely have posted hours and even if they do, these are not strictly observed. You may note on some a small white buzzer which you must press to call attention. If you bustle in brusquely, expect for services to be rendered even more slowly.

1.8.16 Traditional Food and Drink

Chivo and Cordero al Palo: *Puesteros* occasionally butcher a young goat (*chivo*) or young sheep (*cordero*) when they meet with other herdsmen or when they receive a visit to share an abounded meat feast. Female animals are normally preserved to maintain the flock so mainly the young male animals get slaughtered (a rare example of male discrimination). The skinned and cleaned animal is typically cut into pieces and stuck on a wooden pole (*palo*). The pole is then placed next to the fire and occasionally turned until the meat is ready to eat what at least takes 2 hours. It's crucial that the meat is well cooked to kill all potential parasites in the meat.



Picture 65: GPT07: Buying a goat.
Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 64: GPT07: Preparing a goat.
Image: Jan Dudeck

You need to be lucky to arrive just in time for such a feast and get invited. So, if you are hungry and day-dream with big portions of meat ask the people along the route if they have some left or if they are willing to sell an animal and butcher and prepare it for you. Sharing such a meal with *arrieros*, *Pehuenche* people or settlers on the trail is an excellent opportunity to experience the local culture first-hand and learn from your hosts.

The smallest quantity for sale is typically half an animal (*medio canal*) but most prefer to sell only an entire animal (about 8 to 12 kg of meat). Once well-cooked, you can carry the leftovers and consume it for the next two or three days. Especially for a small group the meat of one animal is an appropriate portion since they can finish off the meat before it spoils.


Picture 66: *Asado al Palo*. Image: Jan Dudeck

Witnessing the slaughtering of an animal is an intense and authentic experience. If this disturbs you make yourself aware that most of these trails exist for single reason: breed animals to produce meat.

Harina Tostada: *Harina Tostada* (in Chile) or *ñaco* (in Argentina) is toasted ground wheat and one of the staple foods of the *arrieros* and *Pehuenche*. It comes as a brownish powder, tastes a bit like corn flakes and needs to be mixed with a liquid to be eaten. The most common form is mixing it with cold water (the mix is called *ulpo*) but also wine (called *chupilca*), beer or juice can be used. Also, sugar is often added when mixed with water. Depending on the mixing ratio it forms as thick paste or a liquid and makes a perfect refreshing snack during the day. You may also cook a dinner with it. A traditional *Pehuenche* and *arriero* meal is *harina tosdada* cooked or fried with water, oil, salt and garlic.

Try it yourself and find out how you like it. You can buy it in all rural stores but also in the big supermarkets. It's the perfect trekking food because it's nourishing, takes little space in the backpack and does not perish. Read the Wikipedia article for more information to this versatile food.

Sopaipillas: *Sopaipillas* (in Chile) or *Torta Fritas* (in Argentina) is fried bread. It is made of wheat flour, salt and yeast and cooked for about 10 to 15 minutes in hot oil of animal fat. The preparation takes less time compared to baking bread which makes it a staple food of the *arrieros* and *gauchos* in remote places. Instead of an oven it needs just a pot with fat and a small fire.

Tortilla de Rescoldo: *Tortilla de Rescoldo* is a bread that is baked in the hot ash of an open fireplace. Most puestos don't have a proper oven to bake bread but use the accumulated ash of the fireplace instead. The dough is made of wheat flour, salt and yeast and gently put in a pit in the hot ash and then covered with more hot ash. After about 10 to 15 min the bread is turned and covered with hot ash again to bake it evenly on both sides. To not burn the bread



Picture 67: Making Bread. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 68: Tortilla de Rescoldo. Image: Jan D.



Picture 69: Sopaipillas. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 70: Tortilla de Rescoldo. Image: Jan

the hot ash must be free of embers. It requires quite some experience to get the temperature and the timing right. Also, the fireplace must be in use for days or weeks to accumulate sufficient ash. A typical campfire will not work because the fire itself is too hot and the amount of ash insufficient.

Both, *Sopaipillas* and *Tortillas de Rescoldo* are not easily made by hikers on the trail but if you are lucky you may buy such breads from the locals along the trail. Especially if you camp next to a *puesto* or settler's home you may carefully ask but pay what is appropriate.

Mate: *Mate* is an energizing caffeine-rich hot drink but much more than this: *mate* is an integral part of Patagonian culture. Travelling Patagonia without being invited to share some *mate* would be like visiting Germany without drinking any beer. Mate is a basic element of social live in the rural areas of southern Chile and Argentina.

Preparation: You fill about half a cup (*mate*) with the tea-like *yerba*, pour hot but not boiling water over it and drink with a special straw that also acts as a filter. This straw is called *bombilla*. After a few sips the water is consumed, and you pour more water into the cup. This is repeated several times till the taste fades. You may add sugar to drink it sweet (*dulce*) or without if you prefer the bitter taste (*armago*).

The Social Ritual: If you are on your own you drink by yourself but when being with other people you share one *mate* in between all. Sharing *mate* is a social ritual in Patagonia and when walking the GPT and making acquaintanceship with the people on the trail you will soon be invited. Here are the basic rules when sharing mate:

- The person who prepared the mate also serves the mate, which means she or he puts the water and sugar (optional). And, you always give the cup back to that person.
- Normally you don't say anything when you receive the mate. So well educated people must suppress the instinctive "Gracias". When you say "Gracias", it means that you don't want to drink another cup so next time when it's your turn, you will not be given the mate again.
- There is always an order or sequence if you are drinking with more than 2 people. You need to maintain this system.
- When handing the mate to another person the *bombilla* should face this person. Never rotate nor move the *bombilla*, as this clogs the *bombilla*. Normally, you do not even touch it with your hands.

I wonder how the COVID-19 epidemic will affect and transform the Mate culture. Sharing one mate with one bombilla in between a handful of persons is without doubt not particular hygienic.

Read the Wikipedia article to Yerba Mate 🌎 for a more information and this blog 🌎 for a good preparation instruction.



Picture 71: *Mateando*. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.8.17 Eatable Seeds, Fruits, and Plants

There are many eatable fruits, seeds and plants that can be harvested along the GPT. It would be very difficult to sustain from such food but becoming a part-time-gatherer helps stretching the food rations in the backpack and adds a well-deserved variation into the hikers' diet.

Piñones: *Piñones* are the seeds of the Araucaria tree. The distribution range of this impressive evergreen coniferous trees reached from section GPT09 to GPT16. What we love about these living fossils is not just the imposing stature, but the pines that are full of nutritious seeds. These seeds are rich in carbohydrates and were the main staple food for the indigenous *Pehuenche* people. Their name is derived from their habit of harvesting and eating *piñones* (these seeds are called *pewen* in Mapudungun and *Pewenche* means "people of *pewen"*).



Picture 72: GPT12: Araucaria trees at the Laguna Mariñanqui. Image: Jan Dudeck

The *Pewenche* people taught us how to harvest and prepare these seeds for eating. The natives use lassos or climb up the trees to harvest *piñones* but neither is advisable nor necessary for hikers: a lasso is heavy and it's skilled use requires exercise and experience and the spine tipped leaves make climbing up these trees a punishment. But if you do not have to feed a family for months on your harvest you can go for the few "low-hanging fruit". One pine or two are sufficient for one person's meal.

We developed our harvesting method by trial and error using a strong 10 to 15 m long string. First, we connect long sticks (e.g. bamboo shoots and hiking poles) and then, we lift an open sling over a single cone with this long pole. To break it off we pull on the string against the growth direction. Be careful not to get hit by the cone when pulling; the hand- to football-sized pine is covered with thorny leaves.






Picture 73, 74, 75 and 76: Harvesting *piñones*: *Pehuenche* with lasso or climbing. Hikers go for the low-hanging!

Once we get the pine down, we open it with a wooden wedge and a stone. The seeds then need to be separated by taking the *piñon* apart layer by layer. One pine typically contains 100 to 200 seeds which corresponds to 400 g to 1 kg of pure food. After separation, the seeds need to be boiled for about 30 minutes. It is not necessary to remove the skin or husk before because after boiling the husk slips much easier. Just squeeze a *piñon* on the thicker end and the eatable seed will pop out. You can eat the seed simply cooked with some salt or fry the pre-cooked *piñones* later.

Depending on the location and the weather the cones typical mature between February and April but you may start harvesting in

January if consuming the seeds immediately. In March or April when the *piñones* are ripe you may even collect sufficient seeds on the ground below the trees. This abundant free food on the trail makes it preferable to hiking the *Araucania* region in late summer and early autumn.








Picture 77, 78, 79, 80, 81 and 82: GPT11 and GPT12: Opening and cooking *piñones* as the *Pehuenche* people were teaching us. Images: Jan Dudeck

Calafate or **Michay** (scientific name: *berberis microphylla*): It is an evergreen shrub with simple, shiny box-like leaves that grows to a height of 1 to 2 m. It has many arching branches, each covered in many spines. It grows abundantly from the *Araucania* all the way to Tierra del Fuego. You often find this plant in forest clearings on grazing land. The eatable, deep-blue berries are approximately 5 to 10 mm in diameter and contain several seeds. The spiny branches make harvesting a bit annoying but the aromatic fruits compensate the prickle. But think well before eating these berries; the myth tells that you will inevitably return to Patagonia if you eat them (*"...el que come calafate ha de volver."*). For more information read the Spanish article on Wikiexplora.





Picture 83 and 84: Eatable *Calafate* or *Michay* berries. Image: Jan Dudeck

Chaura (scientific name: *gaultheria mucronata*): It is a compact, bushy, evergreen shrub with glossy green leaves and solitary white flowers in spring, followed in summer and autumn by round berries up to 1.5 cm in diameter. This plant grows predominantly above the tree line. The fruits do not contain noticeable hard seeds and come in different colours that range from deep purple through red and pink to pure white. When ripe the fruits are somewhat sweet, and the taste and texture remind in apples. For more read the English article on Wikipedia.





Picture 85, 86 and 87: White, pink and red Chaura berries. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 88: GPT26H: Chaura just above the tree line.



Murtilla de Magellanes (scientific name: *empetrum rubrum*): It is a low shrub, typically 10 to 40 cm tall with evergreen foliage. This species often grows close to the tree line and can tolerate alpine conditions such as strong winds and high sun exposure. The before mentioned *Chaura* and *Murtilla de Magellanes* often share the same habitat. The somewhat watery tasteless fruits are small red berries of 4 to 8 mm diameter. For more information read the English article on Wikipedia 🌎.



Picture 89 and 90: *Murtilla de Magellanes*. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 91: GPT38: Typical habitat of *Chaura* and *Murtilla de Magellanes*. Image: Jan Dudeck



Maqui (scientific name: *aristotelia chilensis*): It is a small evergreen bushy tree reaching up to 5 m in height. They yield small, purple-black berries that are approximately 4 to 6 mm in diameter and contain 4 to 8 angled seeds with a taste similar to blackberries. For more information read the English article on Wikipedia.

Add images.

Murta or Murtilla or Chilean Guava or Strawberry Myrtle (scientific name: *Ugni Molinae*)**:** Is a shrub native to Chile and adjacent regions of southern Argentina, grows to a hight of 2 m and has evergreen foliage. The flowers are drooping, 1 cm diameter with four or five white or pale pink petals and numerous short stamens; the fruit is a small red, white or purple berry 1 cm diameter. In its natural habitat; the Valdivian temperate rain forests the fruit matures in autumn from March to May. The fruit is cultivated to a small extent. The usage of the fruit in cuisine is limited to southern Chile where it grows. It is used to make the traditional liqueur *Murtado*. It is also used to make jam and the *murta con membrillo* dessert and in *Kuchen* (cake). For more information read the Spanish article on Wikipedia and check how exporters advertise these wild fruits (www.wildpatagoniafoods.com, www.rishi-tea.com).

Add images.



Picture 93: Digüeñe or Quiñoto. Image: Wikipedia

Digüeñe or Quiñoto (scientific name: *Cyttaria espinosae*): This is an orange-white coloured edible fungi native to south-central Chile. The Digüeñe is a parasite that grows on Nothofagus trees and cause canker-like galls on branches from which the fruiting bodies emerge between spring and early summer. In Chilean cuisine, the Digüeñe is usually consumed fresh in salads or fried with scrambled eggs. For more information read the Spanish article on Wikipedia.



Picture 92: Digüeñe or Quiñoto. Image: Jan Dudeck

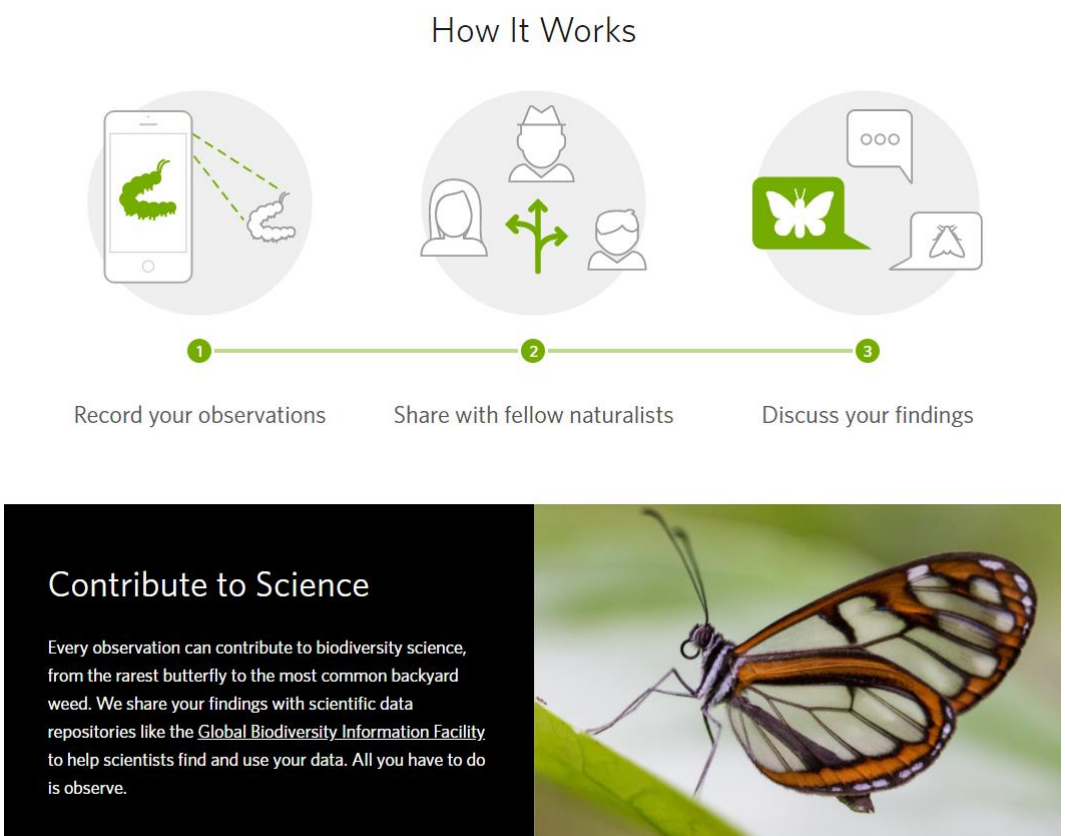
Nalca (scientific name: *gunnera tinctoria*): It is a characteristic large-leaved plant that grows to more than two metres tall in very humid locations. It is unrelated to rhubarb but looks similar from a distance and has similar culinary uses. You can eat the pealed steam preferably from the youngest leaves. It can be consumed raw or cooked.


Picture 94: Nalca. Image: Wikipedia

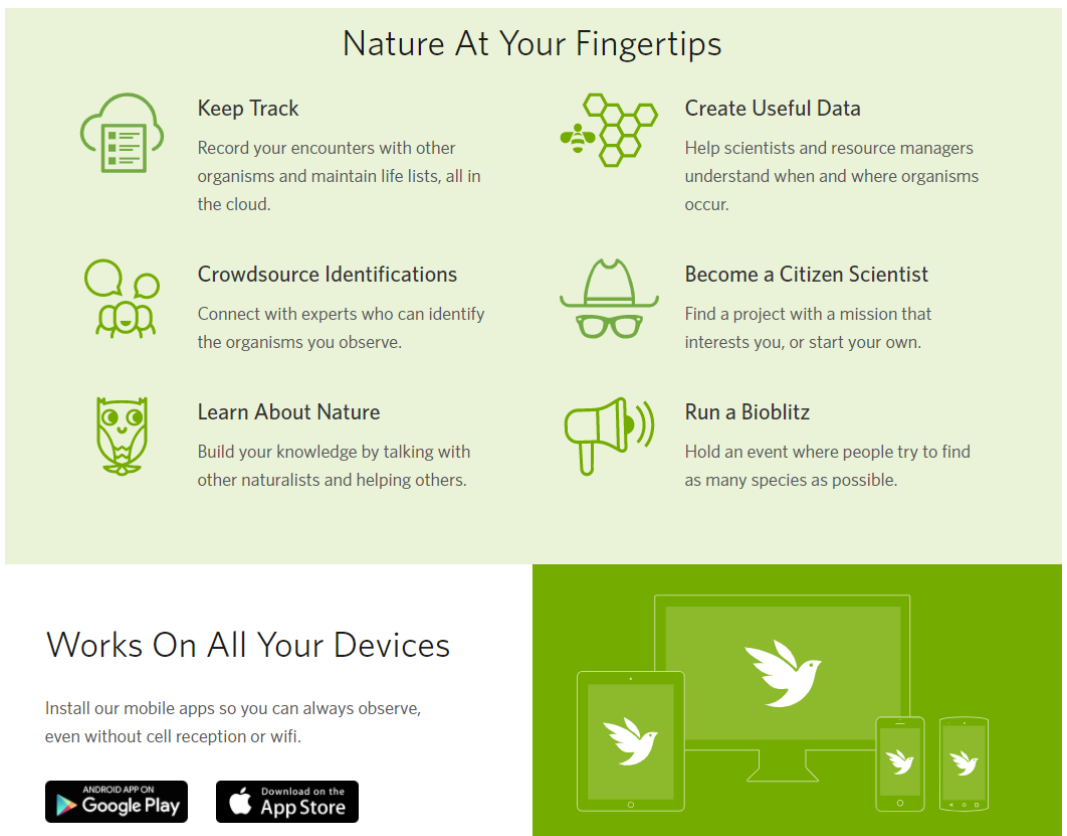
The Nalca plant has been introduced to many parts of the world as an ornamental plant and in some countries (for instance New Zealand, Great Britain and Ireland) it has spread from gardens and became an invasive species. For more information read the Spanish article on Wikipedia.

Apart from these native plants you can find in settlements and next to *puestos* the “classic” fruit trees: apples, pears, cherries and plums. These trees were introduced from Europe with the multiple waves of immigrants. If the location is abandoned feel free to serve yourself, otherwise ask the owner for permission before harvesting. Blackberries grow in some parts abundantly and often serve as hedge on roadsides to discourage intruders.

If your interest is not limited to what you can eat but you want to learn about the species around you and share your observations then consider joining www.inaturalist.org and download the App iNaturalist.



Picture 96: iNaturalist webpage. Image: www.inaturalist.org



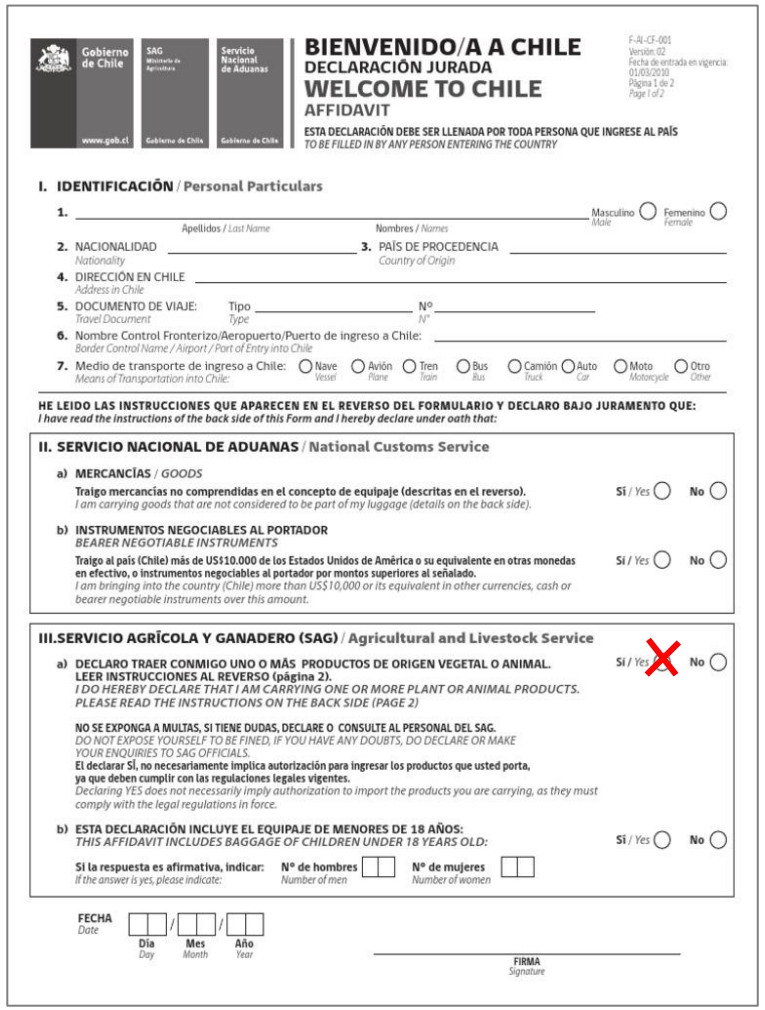
Picture 95: iNaturalist webpage. Image: www.inaturalist.org

1.8.18 What to Bring and What to Leave

If you come from overseas, then my recommendation is: **Bring all your gear but no food and no fuel**. Camping is very popular in Chile and Argentina but finding light and rugged hiking gear is difficult. And if you find it, it will probably cost substantially more than in the US or Europe. But the rising number of outdoor stores in Santiago de Chile and in the more popular tourist towns may help to replace lost or damaged items.

The isolated location of Chile protected it from many disastrous agricultural plagues and Chileans try hard to keep their territory free of agricultural diseases and invasive species[22]. Therefore, food that may carry agricultural pests and all seeds are strictly banned from being imported by individuals[23].

On most border checkpoints the SAG (*Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero*) pedantically checks all luggage. Everything that is classified as a potential risk is confiscated on the border and destroyed. At international airports and major border crossings the SAG deploys specially trained sniffer dogs[24] to search banned items. Even a left-over garlic clove in the bottom-mystery-layer of your backpack gets treated as a


Gobierno de Chile · SAG · Servicio Nacional de Aduanas

BIENVENIDO/A A CHILE
DECLARACIÓN JURADA
WELCOME TO CHILE
AFFIDAVIT

F-AI-CF-001 Versión 02 Fecha de entrada en vigencia: 01/03/2010 Página 1 de 2 / Page 1 of 2

ESTA DECLARACIÓN DEBE SER LLENADA POR TODA PERSONA QUE INGRESE AL PAÍS
TO BE FILLED IN BY ANY PERSON ENTERING THE COUNTRY

I. IDENTIFICACIÓN / Personal Particulars

1. Apellidos / *Last Name* — Nombres / *Names* — Masculino / *Male* ○ Femenino / *Female* ○
2. NACIONALIDAD / *Nationality* — 3. PAÍS DE PROCEDENCIA / *Country of Origin*
4. DIRECCIÓN EN CHILE / *Address in Chile*
5. DOCUMENTO DE VIAJE: / *Travel Document* — Tipo / *Type* — N° / *N°*
6. Nombre Control Fronterizo/Aeropuerto/Puerto de ingreso a Chile: / *Border Control Name / Airport / Port of Entry into Chile*
7. Medio de transporte de ingreso a Chile: / *Means of Transportation into Chile:* ○ Nave / *Vessel* ○ Avión / *Plane* ○ Tren / *Train* ○ Bus / *Bus* ○ Camión / *Truck* ○ Auto / *Car* ○ Moto / *Motorcycle* ○ Otro / *Other*

HE LEIDO LAS INSTRUCCIONES QUE APARECEN EN EL REVERSO DEL FORMULARIO Y DECLARO BAJO JURAMENTO QUE:
I have read the instructions of the back side of this Form and I hereby declare under oath that:

II. SERVICIO NACIONAL DE ADUANAS / National Customs Service

a) **MERCANCÍAS** / *GOODS*
Traigo mercancías no comprendidas en el concepto de equipaje (descritas en el reverso). / *I am carrying goods that are not considered to be part of my luggage (details on the back side).* — Sí / *Yes* ○ No ○

b) **INSTRUMENTOS NEGOCIABLES AL PORTADOR** / *BEARER NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS*
Traigo al país (Chile) más de US$10.000 de los Estados Unidos de América o su equivalente en otras monedas en efectivo, o instrumentos negociables al portador por montos superiores al señalado. / *I am bringing into the country (Chile) more than US$10,000 or its equivalent in other currencies, cash or bearer negotiable instruments over this amount.* — Sí / *Yes* ○ No ○

III. SERVICIO AGRÍCOLA Y GANADERO (SAG) / Agricultural and Livestock Service

a) **DECLARO TRAER CONMIGO UNO O MÁS PRODUCTOS DE ORIGEN VEGETAL O ANIMAL. LEER INSTRUCCIONES AL REVERSO (página 2).** / *I DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I AM CARRYING ONE OR MORE PLANT OR ANIMAL PRODUCTS. PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK SIDE (PAGE 2)* — Sí / *Yes* ✗ No ○

NO SE EXPONGA A MULTAS, SI TIENE DUDAS, DECLARE O CONSULTE AL PERSONAL DEL SAG. / *DO NOT EXPOSE YOURSELF TO BE FINED, IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS, DO DECLARE OR MAKE YOUR ENQUIRIES TO SAG OFFICIALS.*
El declarar SÍ, no necesariamente implica autorización para ingresar los productos que usted porta, ya que deben cumplir con las regulaciones legales vigentes. / *Declaring YES does not necessarily imply authorization to import the products you are carrying, as they must comply with the legal regulations in force.*

b) **ESTA DECLARACIÓN INCLUYE EL EQUIPAJE DE MENORES DE 18 AÑOS:** / *THIS AFFIDAVIT INCLUDES BAGGAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD:* — Sí / *Yes* ○ No ○

Si la respuesta es afirmativa, indicar: / *If the answer is yes, please indicate:* — **N° de hombres** / *Number of men* ☐☐ — **N° de mujeres** / *Number of women* ☐☐

FECHA / *Date* ☐☐ / ☐☐ / ☐☐ — **Día** / *Day* — **Mes** / *Month* — **Año** / *Year*

FIRMA / *Signature*

Picture 97: SAG Declaration. Declare “Si/Yes”!

[22] This is similar to Australia and New Zealand; two countries who apply similar strict import rules and regulations.
[23] Importing food and seeds is possible but this requires special permits and sanitary inspections.
[24] Sniffer dogs that do not respond to drugs or explosives but apples!

serious breach of this food-trafficking-ban. Therefore, bringing foodstuff from overseas is not advisable (and also not necessary). These restrictions apply and get enforced regardless if flying in from overseas or crossing the border on foot at a remote border checkpoint.

Strictly banned items are:

- All fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts (this normally includes dehydrated fruits)
- All raw meat products (e.g. Salami and raw ham)
- All unpasteurised milk products like raw milk and cheese
- Other animal products like eggs and honey
- All kinds of seeds



Picture 98: SAG Logo

When entering Chile you need to fill and sign a declaration (“Sworn statement”) if carrying plant or animal products. On this declaration the definition is very broad and includes all banned but also all permitted items[25]. Therefore, the best and only correct answer is tagging “YES”. If ask, explain that you are aware of the restrictions and outline what you are carrying. If you declare “NO” on the statement but something banned is found, you will be charged a high fine. But if you tagged “YES” on your declaration no fine will be charged.

[25] The broad description includes i.e. a cotton T-shirt (made of a plant product) and a leather shoe (leather is a animal product) but you can obviously bring such items as they are processed in a way that they do not represent a risk for the agricultures.

Only processed food that is sterile can be taken over the border into Chile. Example of **normally permitted items** are:

- Bread, cookies and other baked items
- Pasta, rice, cuscus, polenta, flour and dehydrated potato puree
- All canned and all sealed pasteurised items
- Sweats like chocolate, candies and cereal bars
- Cereals, corn flakes, milk powder and chocolate powder (muesli even if containing dehydrated fruits is normally tolerated)
- Instant meals like dehydrated trekking food in sealed bags

Theoretically the same rules apply when crossing from Chile into Argentina, but Argentine controls are often much more relaxed, and you do not need to fill and sign a declaration.

1.8.19 Cost of Travelling

Chile and Argentina are not budget or low-cost travel countries. Prices are similar or even higher if compared to North America and Europe. South of Puerto Montt in the Patagonian heartland prices get even higher due to the costly logistics.

To cover the cost while hiking on the GPT you should have a budget of approximately 1000 US Dollars per person per month. 800 US Dollars per person per month is the recommended minimum budget and you should not attempt this trail if you have less money available. This travel budget pays for all food, occasionally accommodation, local transport (e.g. to get to the trail and to resupply towns) and this budget covers entrance fees where applicable. This monthly travel budget does not include the airfare to Chile or Argentina and excludes purchasing your hiking gear.

Many of the GPT hikers in recent years required more “town time” than they originally anticipated. Periods of poor weather, health related recovery time and changes of plan were factors that often increased and prolonged the stays in towns and villages where accommodation in not free and where someone tends to spend more money. This is considered in the recommended budget. If everything goes well, you might spend substantially less than 800 USD per month, but best-case-scenarios should not be the planning baseline for budgeting a hike in this region.

National park entrance fees and “trail tolls” take only a small bite out of the hikers’ budget. Permits are required for a few sections in specific hiking directions but this is more an annoyance than a cost issue.

Be a good ambassador of the hiking community and be generous where you are treated with generosity. If you get food or accommodation give what is appropriate even if your hosts don’t ask for money. Insist if necessary! The general rule is that you

ask to get the right-of-way for free but any product or service is paid fairly. Consider that herdsmen, indigenous *Pehuenche* and settlers along the trail can't afford to be generous "trail angels". If they grant you the right-of-way you already received a gift. By paying for food and services you create a positive experience with hikers and that is essential to keep the trails open for guests.

If you are in a remote place along the route and someone offers you some food or accommodation than please don't bargain for a discount if the asking price is reasonable. Take it or leave it! I found the locals on the trail to be generous and reasonable and haggling would be in most cases rude.

The table below shows the appropriate price range for orientation. Naturally as the location becomes more remote, higher prices are appropriate. An item that was carried on horseback for hours or days has a higher value than the same product in a supermarket. The logistics are more costly in the southern sections[26].

What should be free is the right-of-way and pitching your tent for one night in a place without any services. And there is one more thing that is always free of charge and for which paying would be an offence: being invited to share some *mate*.

[26] I was surprised to learn that settlers in Villa O'Higgins (southern end of the Carrera Austral) pay for a *quintal harina* (50 kg sack of flour) about 2 to 3 times as much as in Santiago.

Item	Comment	Unit	Lower Price Range	Upper Price Range
Bread	Bread or Sopaipilla baked for you on the trail.	Kilogram	2500 CLP	4000 CLP
Flour	*Harina* (*cruda*) to make bread yourself.	Kilogram	1000 CLP	2500 CLP
Harina tostada	Toasted ground wheat.	Kilogram	2500 CLP	4000 CLP
Eggs	Free-range eggs of happy chicken from homestead farms.	Egg	150 CLP	250 CLP
Goat	Seller can butcher the animal on request.	Entire animal	70000 CLP	80000 CLP
Lamb	Seller can butcher the animal on request.	Entire animal	80000 CLP	100000 CLP
Meat	Rarely available on the trail.	Kilogram	5000 CLP	8000 CLP
Cheese	Rarely available on the trail. Only few people make cheese.	Kilogram	8000 CLP	12000 CLP
Cooked Meal	Warm meal cooked for you.	Per person per meal	4000 CLP	8000 CLP
Cold Meal	*Desayuno* or *Once*: Bread, marmalade, cheese, tea, coffee.	Per person per meal	3000 CLP	5000 CLP
Accommodation	A bed for one night. Standard may vary substantially.	Per person per night	5000 CLP	15000 CLP
Other Items	Items from supermarkets for resale in remote areas on the trail. Multiply the typical supermarket price with a factor of 1.5 to 2 to estimate a fair prince in remote places.	Price factor	1.5	2

Table 5: Appropriate prices for food and services in remote locations (Updated in March 2022)

Exchange rates in November 2020:

- 1 EUR = approx. 900 CLP
- 1 USD = approx. 750 CLP

1.8.20 Cash and Credit Cards

1.8.20.1 Chile

Credit cards and cash in local currency are both recommended to make payments in Chile. Chileans have additional suitable options to make payments and withdraw cash (Cuenta RUT, Caja Vecina).

MasterCard and VISA Credit Cards are widely accepted in Chile, even in smaller villages. When accepted, we always pay by credit card as this results in lower transaction cost compared to cash (if the cash was withdrawn before with a foreign banking card on an ATM in Chile).

I always carry two credit cards in case one card gets damaged, blocked, or lost. I have one card easily accessible for making payments while the backup card is safely stored in example in a money belt.



Picture 99: Chilean Pesos. Image: Jan Dudeck

Cash in local currency will be needed in remote areas, on markets or when it is more practical to play smaller amounts. Often, small businesses only accept cash, in example budget accommodations or rural transportation. Sometimes, a discount is offered for cash payments.

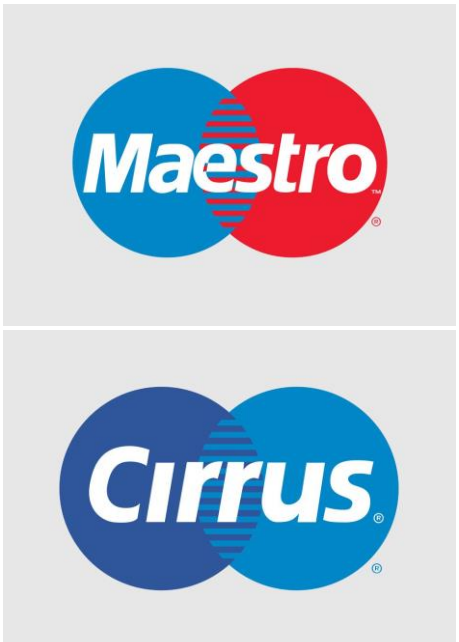
In Chile only Chilean Pesos (CLP) are accepted. The inflation rate hoovers around 3% annually making it a rather stable currently. Coins range from 10 Pesos to 500 Pesos and bills come in denominations of 1’000, 2’000, 5’000, 10’000 and 20’000 Pesos.

Before we go into remote areas, we make several payments with the large 10’000 CLP and 20’000 Pesos bills to generate sufficient small change in form of 1’000 CLP, 2’000 CLP and 5’000 Pesos bills.

Paying in foreign currency is rarely accepted but currently exchange offices can be found in all major towns and tourist hotspot. More to this later.

ATM’s for **cash withdraws** are frequent in Chile, located in most banks but also in malls, super-markets, and pharmacies. This makes cash withdraws easily in most resupply towns. Only in the far south ATM’s are rare or non-existing. Therefore, carry sufficient cash when leaving Coyhaique south-bound (Coyhaique is the last town with numerous ATM’s).

When withdrawing cash on ATM’s, we normally use our foreign banking card. Cash withdraws with regular credit cards result often in higher transaction cost (approx. 4% in addition to all other fees) but Debit cards in example “VISA debit” might be similar to banking cards. Foreign banking cards normally work fine on ATM’s in Chile if the banking card has a “Maestro” or “Cirrus” sign.



Picture 100: Maestro and Cirrus signs. Image: FeeVector

Unfortunately, withdrawing cash does not come cheap for foreign guests with banking cards from abroad. A cash withdraw on an ATM in Chile is often limited to 200’000 CLP per withdraw and a fee of 4’500 CLP to 6’500 CLP is normally charged regardless of the withdrawn amount. This makes it advisable to always withdraw the maximum amount permitted. The fee is displayed before the transaction and you may abort the withdraw. In this way you can compare the ATM’s of multiple providers. All transaction cost

including home bank fees and cost hidden in the applied exchange rate sum up to about 4% to 6%. In comparison the hidden cost when paying by credit card is approx. 2% to 3%.

To minimize transaction cost, try the ATM's of "Banco Internacional". According to an internet publication from 2020 only this bank offered fee-free ATM withdraws in Chile in July 2020. Unfortunately, these "Banco Internacional" ATM's are infrequent.

We typically use "Banco Estado" ATM's. These ATM's normally offer significant higher withdraw limits for a similar fee ("Banco Estado" withdraw limit is 400'000 CLP to 500'000 CLP for a fee of approx. 5000 CLP).

Another suitable option to reduce money transfer cost is **bringing cash in US Dollar (USD) or Euro (EUR) and exchanging** it in Santiago de Chile. The centre of Santiago de Chile is plastered with currently exchange offices that offer much better rates than banks or airport exchange offices. The currency exchange offices in the pedestrian zone (Paso Ahumada, Mondea Agustinas) offer exchange rates that only deviate by 0.5% to 1% from the interbank rate and don't add any fees. But this applies only to USD and EUR. Other currencies are often exchanged at less favourable rates.

If you have trustworthy friends with an account in Chile you may transfer money using the inexpensive and transparent service of www.transferwise.com.

All hikers that discover less costly cash withdraw methods are asked to share their recommendation in the Facebook group. The same applies when experiencing relevant changes to the above stated.

1.8.20.2 Argentina

Little of the above applies to Argentina. For decades, the annual inflation in Argentina fluctuated between 5% and 50% resulting in a persistent devaluation of the Argentine Peso (ARS). This undermined the confidence in the Argentine Peso and made the USD widely accepted in Argentina. The Argentine government restricts the use of foreign currencies; therefore, most payments must be made in ARS. But changing USD in ARS is easy and most people with enough cash at hand will happily buy your USD in exchange for ARS. From 2011 to 2015 the Argentine government intervened heavily in the exchange rate and imposed currency controls. This created a “black market” on which tourists could exchange USD to ARS at the much more favourable unofficial “blue” rate. During this period, it would have been rather silly for foreign tourists to use credit cards or withdraw cash from ATM’s as an unfavourable official exchange rate would have been applied.

When travelling from Chile to Argentina we normally carry enough cash in USD and sometimes buy ARS in Chile if exchange rates can favourable. Best compare at what rate exchange office offer ARS and compare this rate with the interbank rate.

Using of credit cards and withdrawing cash from ATM’s is only recommended while no currency controls are in effect. Therefore, be vigilant, compare exchange rates, and ask locals or other tourists.

1.9 Dangers and Annoyances on the GPT

In this chapter I discuss a wide range of obstacles, annoyances, and dangers on the GPT. I'm focusing on aspects the are particular for this region and that might not be self-evident for hikers that earned their stripes on other trails.

1.9.1 Right-Of-Way Disputes and Other Obstacles

I already stressed that the GPT is an informal route network without an established right-of-way. In particular when crossing private properties hikers might be challenged to proceed. On some sections the routes traverse national parks and protected areas where permits, reservations or registrations are required. In the following I list exemplary obstacles on the GPT that hikers might face. For current information best consult the Wikiexplora section articles that are amended regularly by hikers.



Picture 101: Gate on Regular Route. Image: Austin Davis

GPT01 Regular Route: 11 kilometers into the section a locked gate and barbed wire complicate the access to the minor road. According to a local resident, the road is not private property, but anyway locked to fend off off-road enthusiast and non-residents. Hikers either climbed over the gate or were lucky that someone with key was around. There is also an alternative optional route.

GPT01 Option 1 (Rio Clarillo): This option provides an attractive and direct connection between sections GPT01 and GPT02 and crosses the Parque Nacional Río Clarillo. This route would be an attractive start into the GPT if access would be less restricted. The park administration permits only day visitors. Over-night camping and the use of camping stoves is banned. This restriction shall minimize the wildfires risk. Therefore, long-distance hikers with camping gear are normally not permitted to traverse the park. In some instances, hikers patiently explained their intent to traverse the park and were granted permission while others were sent back. Therefore, GPT01 Option 1 is only recommended in northbound direction as hikers leave the national park at the entrance control and don't require an entrance permit.

GPT02 Variant F (Mina El Teniente): The regular route of section GPT02 guides around the productive core of the copper mine El Teniente and intentionally avoids the main road. Hikers that stayed on the regular route could hike this section untroubled. But when stepping on the paved main road expect to be stopped by any passing car and escorted to the main gate. Safety regulations simply does permit any unescorted visitors, so guards and employees must stop your and get you out of the facility. To my knowledge all hikers that made this experience were treated friendly. You can use this policy in your favour should run out of water. In this case just descent from ridge to paved main road and wait for the next vehicle.

GPT04 Option 1 (Sierra de Belavista): This option crosses the "resort village" Sierra de Belavista that was created by some well-off businessman. They purchased this scenic plot of land in the mountains 150 km south of Santiago de Chile and founded in 1990 an exclusive weekend retreat for "exclusive use by members and shareholders". Therefore, this is not a regular village with normal people and some shops to resupply but an exclusive resort with a golf course and tennis courts. The regular route intentionally leads around this settlement. This option is only included in the route network to guide hikers to the nearest populated place in case of an emergency.

GPT05 Regular Route: From various hikers I learned that an upper-class family owns a large plot of land in the vicinity of Laguna Mondaca. When the owners come for a visit, then they do not walk in or ride on horseback but fly in by helicopter. The owners enjoy fishing and to secure the biggest fishes they installed fish feeding equipment along the river. The owners hire local *arrieros* to guard and maintain this *fundo* during the entire summer season.

To discourage hikers a sign is placed at a nearby pass that prohibits access to the lake. To my knowledge Chilean law guarantees public access to lakes and rivers and therefore this sign is probably legally void. Hikers made mixed experiences when crossing this area. The guards feel authorized to control access and are proud to have firearms. But when the owners are not around, they enjoy the company by an occasional hiker that they try to impress. I have not heard yet, that these guards turned hikers back but they might get harassing with Chilean tourists, with larger groups or while the owners visit the property.

When walking southbound, then hikers might run into these guards while leaving the property and there is little the guards can do. And when hiking northbound hikers, then hikers may take a different route to bypass the Laguna Mondaca should they get seriously challenged. As of now I consider the demanding route of GPT05 the bigger challenge than the guards and the possible right-of-way dispute.

GPT06 Regular Route Northern Terminus: This section start at the Reserva Nacional Siete Tazas. In 2020 the access to the trail was limited to 80 persons per day. Especially on weekends early birds fill up this quota. Therefore, hikers that plan to walk GPT06 in southbound direction should avoid weekends, arrive early, and be prepared to wait a day. Best read the Wikiexplora article to GPT06 and the Wikiexplora article to Laguna Las Animas. Northbound hikers are not subject to the 80 persons per day limit as they leave the protected area at the checkpoint.

GPT06 Regular Route Southern Terminus: The southern terminus of the regular route crosses the hydropower station Cipreses. This installation is owned by Enel and includes the gravel road from the Laguna de La Invernada to the public road Ruta 115. Permanently manned gates control the southern access near Ruta 115 but there are no similar barriers when entering the property from the north over the mountains (when coming from the volcano Descabezado Grande).

Therefore, when hiking southbound a permit is not necessarily required but beneficial. While descending on the road from the Laguna de La Invernada to the Route 115 passing vehicles normally stop hikers and escort them to the main gate if they do not produce an entry permit from Enel. The guards at the main gate normally record the names and passport numbers of all hikers. This does imply any negative consequences but is just a habit in Chile. A good number of hikers catched a ride from the main gate to Talca with one of the leaving employees or contractors.

An access permit is required to walk the regular route of GPT06 in northbound direction. This permit can be requested in advance and this is normally granted to groups of at least two hikers. Solo hikers are denied an entry permit for safety reasons. See the Wikiexplora section article to GPT06 or the Wikiexplora article to Laguna y Cráter Los Hornitos for detailed instructions.

GPT07 Regular Route: About 11 kilometers soutbound into this section the regular route leaves the paved Ruta 115. Here a permanently guarded gate and a fence block access to the gravel road that leads to a construction side higher up on the flank of Volcano San Pedro. The guards are not permitted to grant access to hikers but they kindly pointed out where the fence can be bypassed. After taking this bypass along the shore on a river you can return to the gravel road. This bypass in incorporated into the track files.

GPT07 Option 6 (Las Truchas): This option provides an attractive connection between section GPT07 and GPT08 and serves hikers that don't require a resupply to combine sections GPT07 and GPT08 into one long traverse. This option leads over a pass to Laguna Las Tuchas and descends along the valley of Río Las Truchas to the settlement El Roble. When the current owner purchased this large fundo, he first kept it open for visitors. But especially residents littered the attractive camp sites at the lake and regularly acted irresponsible. To stop the damage, he installed locked gates on the southern access and instructed his caretake to deny access to all Chileans but grant access to foreign hikers.

GPT08 Option 6 (Rayenco): This option crosses the territory of the hydropower station El Toro (German). Hikers can leave this property in southbound direction at the permanently manned gate but entering this route in northbound direction requires a permit by Enel (similar to the hydropower station on GPT06). Therefore, this option serves as an emergency exit from the exposed ridge that allowed us and others to escape bad weather.

GPT12 Regular Route: In season 2018/19 a *Pehuenche* on the upper end of Valle Mitrauquén Alto hassled passing hikers and demanded money. He played the "indigenous card" asking for a written permit from local *Pehuenche* community which hikers obviously could not produce. Then he demanded "trail toll" for the *Pehuenche* community and threatened to chase the hikers back if not paying (about 10'000 CLP per person, he certainly kept the money for himself). In one case, a more sober talk started. This revealed that this *Pehuenche* was in the believe that the government has setup a hiking trail and that officials charge hikers money for using the trail without giving his share to him. This made him feel betrayed and act in rage. The hikers patiently explained that the GPT is developed without any government involvement and that neither the author nor any of the contributors earn money on this trail project.

I'm unsure if the situation is resolved by now. To avoid potentially intimidating encounters, I placed an "Important Information" waypoint with a warning in the track file and re-route the Regular Route around this *puesto*. Hikers that follow the updated Regular Route will walk on the other side of the valley and keep a safety distance of at least 400 m.

GPT16 Regular Route: About 20 kilometers into this section the regular route crosses Fundo Huililco. To stop unauthorized access with vehicles the owners setup a gate and keep it locked. So far, I have not heard that hikers were turned back.

GPT17H and GPT18 Regular Route: During the later days of the Pinochet Regime large parts of the state-owned forest around the Lago Pirihueico were sold under obscure circumstances to the German immigrant Victor Petermann. He later converted the forest into the "private-for-profit natural reserve" Huilo Huilo. The emphasis seems to be the profit and less the natural reserve. Permanently manned gates control access. Guests of the luxury resorts on this immense property are permitted in while residents of the nearby villages and hikers are turned back. Wood logging continues in more hidden parts of the "profit reserve". See the Wikipedia article to the Complejo Forestal y Maderero Panguipulli.

We first attempted to take the former public road from Puerto Fuy to Pirihueico but were turned back on several gates. One guard suggested to take the ferry over Lago Pirihueico and walked in on the same road but from the other side. When entering from the other side we did not encounter any checkpoints; just some locked gates, fences and "Do not enter" signs. I updated the regular route of GPT17H and GPT18 multiple times to avoid encounters between employees and hikers to evade right-of-way disputes.

GPT22 Hiking Regular Route: The regular hiking route crosses a hiking area that has grown in popularity in recent years. The increased flux of hikers forced the operators of the camp sites to establish a reservation system but the high demand during the peak season makes it difficult to reserve a spot between mid-December and mid-March on short notice. The operators of the camp sites control the southbound entrance only (near Cochamo) and may deny access to the trail if no reservation for the camp site was made in advance. See www.cochamo.com/reservationscamping to this subject. This complicates a southbound traverse of GPT22 but there is no similar entrance control in northbound direction.

A southbound traverse of this section is also complicated by the 3 boat transfers over the Río Puelo (twice) and Río Traidor (once). The boat transfers are easier arranged when hiking this part in northbound direction as hikers pass the homes of the settlers just before the river crossing that are far too deep to ford.

Therefore it is suggested to hike most of GPT22 northbound even if walking generally in southbound direction. For this flip-flop hikers must take twice the bus-ferry-bus combination between Cochamó and Primer Corral.

GPT23 Hiking Regular Route: Wildfire destroyed in 2015 and 2016 large parts of the forest in the vicinity of Lago Puelo and Lago Cholila. This resulted in a closure of hiking trails on the eastern side of Lago Puelo, meaning that no trail maintenance is done and that these trails are overgrown by now. The few hikers that made it through this area after the wildfires advanced very slowly and suffered in overgrown terrain. See also www.argentina.gob.ar/parquesnacionales/lagopuelo and www.lagopuelo.gob.ar. Packrafts are less affected by this trail closure.

GPT24H Hiking Regular Route: Budget cuts limit the capability of Parque Nacional Los Alerces to maintain trails. Routes that were easily traversable in 2015 and 2016 became overgrown in the following years and are officially closed. Hikers can now resort to roads but this makes walking this section less attractive. See www.argentina.gob.ar/parquesnacionales/losalerces.
Packrafters are not affected as the entire section is on water.

GPT25H Regular Route: Several national park trails are now officially closed for similar reasons as on GPT23 and GPT24H.

GPT38 Regular Route: This section crosses the border between Chile and Argentina and the seasonal border controls open for 6 months from November 1 to April 30. 26 km of gravel road connect the Chilean and Argentine border posts making this route popular for bikes but not particular attractive for hikers. Therefore, the suggested regular route of GPT38 bypasses this road on a much longer scenic trail that starts and ends near both border controls. This suggested detour leads to the edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefield with multiple options to spend more time in proximity to glaciers.

There is no agreement if hikers are permitted to walk this route after stamping out of one country and before stamping into the next country. When investigating this route in season 2016/17 we explicitly ask for authorization and were granted permission from a young Chilean *Carabinero*. But other hikers were often instructed to follow direct gravel road without a detour when discussing their intended route with *Carabineros* (Chile) or *Gendarmería* (Argentina).

When returning to this section in season 2018/19 we were not talkative and did not disclose our plans at the border post. The *Carabineros* probably assumed that we will walk the direct road like all other hikers and bikers. This is probably a good practice for hikers and packrafter that plan to follow the scenic regular route and do not want to take the shortcut. But everybody intending to

cross the border must obtain the exit stamp first otherwise he will be sent back by the entry border control. I'm not aware of any complications in recent year when hikers arrived at the receiving border control with an exit stamp that was several days old.

GPT40 Regular Route: This section in Parque Nacional Los Glaciares follows the Vuelta Huemul. This circuit requires a registration at the park administration and special gear for two Tyrolean traverses over often torrential river. This gear can be rented in El Chalten (steel carabiner, harness, cord).

Packrafting in fjords and border lakes: In theory packrafting in fjords and border lakes requires a written permit by the *Armada de Chile* (Chilean Navy). To obtain such a permit a set mandatory equipment must be carried. Some of these items cannot be obtained easily (in example flares that require a kind of firearm permit) or that is inappropriate for packrafts (an anker). We never attempted to get such permit.

Remote areas of national parks: To venture in Chilean national parks "off-trail" into remote areas a written permit by Conaf is required. We once obtained such a permit and were surprised how quickly this permit was issued. But we were properly consulted and instructed where and how to request this permit (Parque Nacional San Rafael for GPT91P Option 1: Bahia Exploradores, Estero Elefantes, Bahia Gualas Lago Gualas, Lago Reichert, Lago Sur, Rio Sur).

Similar restrictions apply in Argentine national parks that are also divided in sectors with public trails and public access and other more protected areas that are "off-limits" for visitors without special permits.

1.9.2 Trail Condition and Trail Visibility

The Greater Patagonian trail is not an official trail that is set up and managed by a government agency. This means that large parts of the route network are not monitored and maintained by public authorities. The maintenance of many routes relies on the needs and initiative of the few local users for example the *arrieros* that drive livestock to pastures and the *poladores* that live in the remote back-country. If not maintained fast growing vegetation and falling trees can close a trail within a few years in particular in the Valdivian Temperate Rain Forest. Rain wears on many routes and landslides can bite big chunks out of trails. Also, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes destroy or alter routes.



Picture 102: Poorly maintained trail on GPT28H Option 1. Image: Jan Dudeck

Therefore, regularly check the Wikiexplora section articles and the GPT Facebook group for updates to your next sections and provide such feedback to other hikers whenever you have the opportunity for example during resupply stops.

Caution and good judgment are needed when hiking the GPT because some trails change or become impassable over time. Check your GPS regularly but don't follow the GPS tracks blindly. Be prepared to seek alternative routes or turn around when advancing gets unsafe.

The lack of signposts makes good route-finding skills essential. This skill requires well-trained eyes that carefully read the ground and spot inconspicuous marks on either side of the route. Therefore, pay attention to:

- Compacted soil with noticeable less vegetation from repeated use (weakly visible trail)
- Machete cuts on either side of the route (may remain visible for years)
- Tree bark marks (traditional method to mark a trail that may remain recognizable several decades)
- Litter and other signs of human presents (sometimes trash is intentionally placed to mark a rarely used route)
- Horse droppings are a more reliable indicator for a trail than cow plop (cattle often roams freely in the forest while horses “travel for work” primarily)

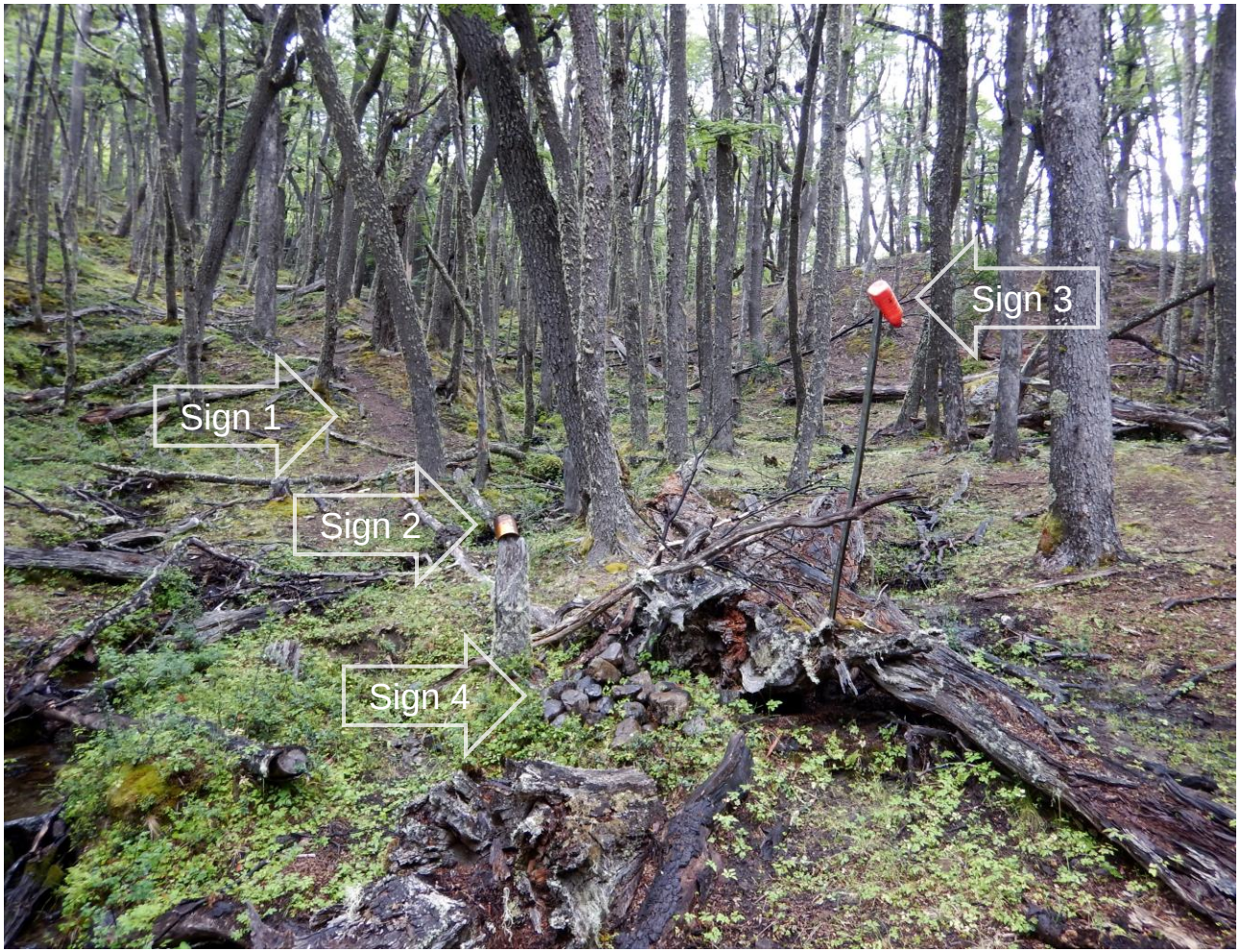




Picture 104 and 105: Aged and fresh and machete cut that often but not always indicate a trail. Image: Jan D.



Picture 103: Aged tree bark mark with machete cut lines in the wood that confirm anthropogenic origin.



Picture 106: Occasionally used trail on GPT38. Image: Jan Dudeck

Bear in mind, that a GPS does not make a weakly visible trail better visible. A GPS serves mainly to verify if still being on route and to return to the trail after losing the path. The eyes are the primary tool for navigation.

Sign 1: Line with noticeable less vegetation indicating an occasionally used trail

Sign 2 and 3: Intentionally placed trash to mark the route and a diversion

Sign 4: Cairn (stone pile) with the same purpose

A machete is recommended for selected regular routes and many options to cut back thorny plants and to contribute to the trail maintenance. In 2020 a machete was beneficial or required on the regular route of GPT18, GPT20, GPT23, GPT25P, GPT29P, GPT78, GPT80P to GPT83P, GPT90P and GPT91P. Options are intentionally not listed here as there are too many.

To traverse overgrown terrain a hiker is normally faster (but not fast!) when not using a machete and simply sneaking and pushing his way through the vegetation without cleaning a path. In badly overgrown terrain the “hiking speed” can drop to 250 m per hour especially with a heavy backpack with packrafting gear. But a machete is essential to smash a path through patches of thorny scrub and *quila* and to contribute to trail maintenance even this slows down a hiker.

Machete best practices:

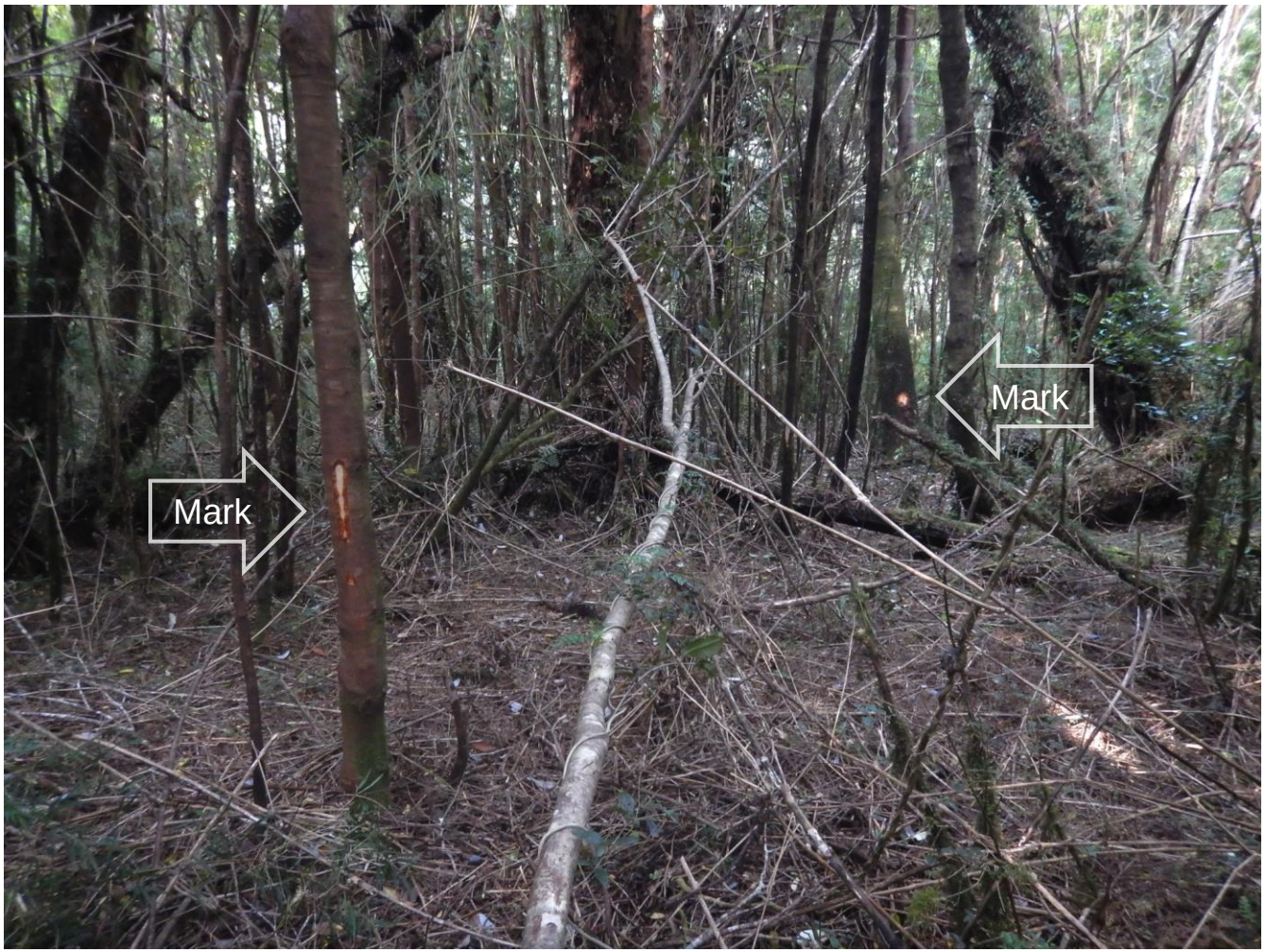
- After purchasing a machete **get it sharpened**. Some machetes are intentionally sold blunt (edgeless) to prevent injuries during shipping and handling.
- If hiking with a heavy backpack then **put down the backpack** before cleaning a path with a machete. Record the location of your backpack(s) on your GPS with a waypoint and place your backpacks easily visible to spot them from some distance away (and obviously carry the GPS with you).
- To avoid blisters, **work with gloves**. We normally hike with tip-less bicycle gloves that help to firmly grip the machete.
- Don’t hurt yourself or others. Always **swing slightly sidewards away from any body part** and not vertical down towards your legs and feet.
- Don’t hurt yourself or others. Either **put the free hand behind your back** or hold the machete with both hands when cutting bigger objects. Avoid holding the branch or steam that you intent cutting. But when holding a branch or steam with one hand

then leave a good safety distance between your hand and the intended machete impact.

- Don’t hurt yourself or others. When working in a group **keep several meters distance between yourself and others** and never swing towards another person in case the machete slips out of your hand and flies off.

- To be efficient aim to **impact with the machete tip section**.
- Avoid hacking perpendicularly to the grows direction. Maximize the effectiveness of your machete by **cutting in a 45° angle**.
- Take care to not misguide other hikers with your machete marks. **When disoriented a machete should not be used** and especially no “tree bark marks” should be made off route (more to this later). Therefore, **a freshly cleaned route is best marked on the way back** when returning to the backpacks or to the camp and not while searching a route.
- A confirmed and cleaned route is traditionally **marked with long lasting “tree bark marks”** by cutting off a patch of bark till the wood is exposed. The bark will normally not heal completely leaving a visible mark for decades. Ideally from each mark the next mark is visible and this in both hiking orientations. Especially where the route changes the direction the next one or two marks should be clearly visible. The optimal mark height is 1.5 m to 1.8 m above ground. Don’t make two “tree bark marks” on the same tree on opposite sides. To minimize the damage to a tree and maximize the survivability of the marked tree make one “tree bark marks” per tree only.

We several times camped at the beginning of a complete overgrown traverse, departed in the morning armed with machetes and a small daypack to search and clean a route. We did not mark the route until we reached our objective and returned to the camp. On the way back we frequently looked in both directions and made sufficient “tree bark marks” so at least one mark is always visible in each direction. This is best done in a group of 4 or more persons.





Picture 107 and 108: Opening a route in Isla Magdalena on GPT28P. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.9.3 River Crossings

River crossings are possibly the greatest hazard for hikers on the GPT in particular if attempted during inappropriate times or at not suitable locations. Snowmelt and heavy rain can raise the water level quickly making rivers impassable that during other times are easily forded. Also, the bed of a river can change and a location that once was suitable for fording can became dangerous.

Therefore, do not rely on the GPS waypoint for river crossings but always judge the situation yourself before attempting to ford a river. Take your time to find a suitable ford and do not rush into the water. If the suggested ford appears unsafe seek an alternative location along the river either upstream or downstream. If you cannot find a safe ford you may camp one night and wait till the next morning if the river is feed by snowmelt or glaciers. Otherwise turn around and take an alternative route.



Picture 109: Fording solo with a stout pole. Image: www.frontierbushcraft.com

Rivers should only be crossed with shoes and hiking poles or a stout pole for added stability. You may search a stout pole in a nearby forest. When fording fast flowing rivers always face upstream. When hiking in a group of two or more, then best ford fast flowing rivers in a “line astern”. The tallest and heaviest person is upstream and the others position themselves directly downstream while holding firmly to the backpack of the person in front. Walks sidewards. There are plenty of useful resources on the internet in example: www.thehikinglife.com, www.mountaineering.scot, www.wilderlife.nz and www.frontierbushcraft.com. For a group fording technique watch a video that nicely shows the “line astern” method: Youtube: Fording in a line astern.

To cross more demanding fast flowing or high-volume rivers an appropriate timing of the fording might be required. For this, hikers should understand how the water volume normally fluctuates with the daytime, the weather and the season.

Snowmelt and glacier feed rivers: Rivers that origin at a glacier or that are feed by snowmelt have a distinct daily volume cycle. With the rising temperature during the day the volume flow steadily increases to reach its maximum in late afternoon or evening. During a cold clear night the temperature drops again and with this flow rate decreases to reach its minimum in the early morning. Therefore, if such a river appears unsafe to cross in the afternoon or evening it might be worth camping near the suggested river crossing and recheck the river in the early morning (especially if it is not raining and the night promises to become clear and cold). Note, that such rivers can quickly rise anytime if it rains at the elevation of the glacier or snowfields.



Picture 110: Fording in a group in a “line astern”.
Image: www.mountaineering.scot

Regular drainage rivers: Once all snow is molten, mountain rivers have a more constant flow rate that temporarily rises with precipitation. Especially in the generally dry north (section GPT01 to GPT16) rain can convert in minutes a tiny stream into a roaring river if heavy rain comes down somewhere in the river’s drainage area. Depending on the duration and intensity of the rain it might take a couple of hours or even days till the river level normalizes. In such a situation it might become necessary:

- to push on to cross a river before predicted heavy rain that may traps someone at a river crossing,
- to backtrack if the condition appears unlikely to improve and you are not trapped in between rivers,

- or to simply sit out the weather if the forecast is promising or if you are trapped in between swollen rivers and you have no other safe choice.

The watercolor and clarity of the river provides a hint if the river level is unusual high or rather normal. Dirty brownish water indicates that heavy precipitation caused a substantial temporary increase of the river flow rate. If you are unsure if the water level is likely to fall with dryer weather check also if the river drowns the normally not flooded vegetation on either side of the river.

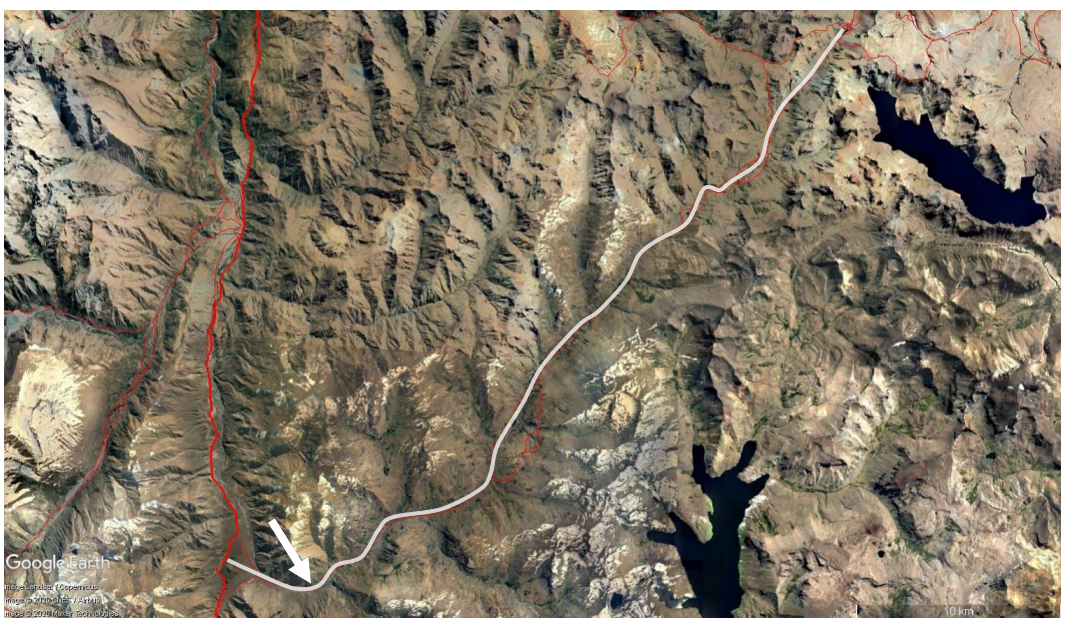
Lake drainage rivers: Drainage rivers of large lakes respond with some delay to weather related water volume changes. The lake acts as a buffer therefore heavy rain will not instantly increase the flow rate of a river that drains a large lake. On the other hand, it might take several days for the river level to drop if several days of heavy rain caused a substantial rise of the lake water level. As bigger the lake as slower and long-lasting the response.

Example 1: The drainage river of Laguna Dial does not rise quickly with heavy rain and does not show a substantial daily volume fluctuation during snowmelt in spring. The 8 km long lake acts as a buffer.

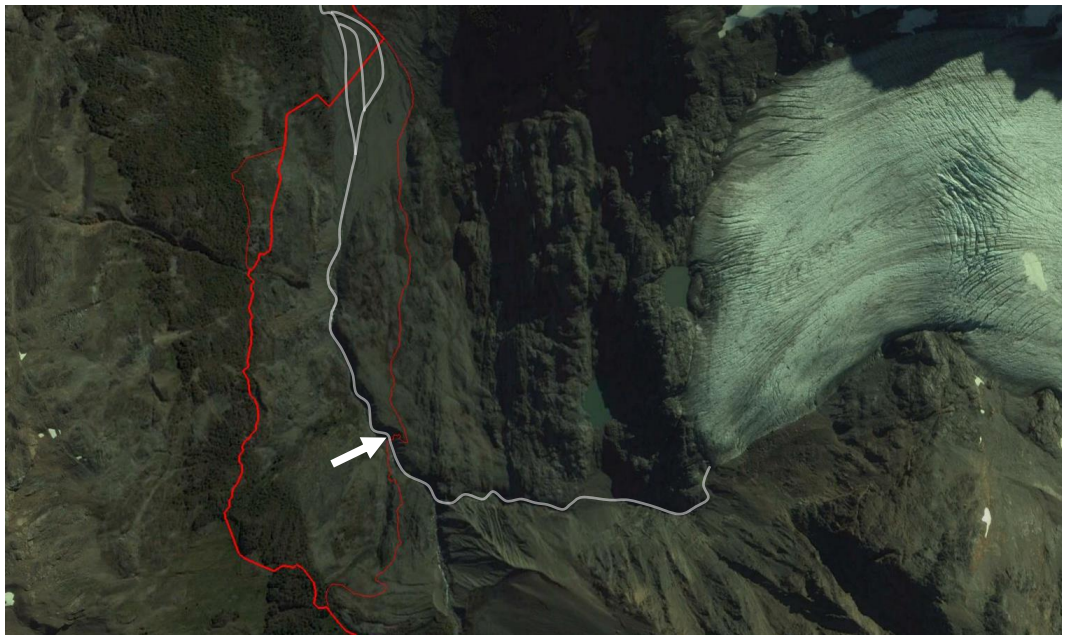


Picture 111: Example 1: Drainage of Laguna Dial. Image: Google Earth

Example 2: Rio Troncoso has a large drainage basin in a generally dry mountainous area without a lake that acts as a buffer. After the snow in the surrounding mountains has molten this river can be forded on foot. But in heavy rain this mountain creek quickly transforms in a torrential river. Therefore, this route that crosses the river multiple times should only be hiked in stable dry weather once most snow has molten.



Picture 112: Example 2: Rio Troncoso on GPT07. Image: Google Earth



Picture 113: Example 3: Ford La Picota on GPT36H. Image: Google Earth

Example 3: The infamous ford La Picota on the Ruta de los Pioneros (GPT36H) crosses the meltwater river of a nearby glacier. In the early morning after a cold and dry night this river may be crossed at the historic ford La Picota. But during a nice summer day this ford becomes a death trap. Therefore the regular route crosses this meltwater river on a alluvial plain where the river splits in multiple easily forded river arms.

1.9.4 Remoteness

Good parts of the GPT cross remote and isolated areas. In some areas you can walk for days without seeing another human being. Therefore, be prepared to help yourself in case of an accident. Always carry a first aid kid and emergency medication.

If you are hurt and unable to continue it might take weeks or more for someone else to pass and mobile phone coverage is very limited along the trail. Therefore, a satellite-based emergency communication device may be essential for your survival in such an emergency. Garmin InReach offers light-weight satellite pagers. When pushing the emergency button it submits a distress signal via satellite with your GPS position to a rescue centre. For further information see the chapter 1.11.10 Communication on page 235.

1.9.5 Severe Weather Events

Storms with heavy rain may arise on all parts of the trail anytime. In elevated areas heavy snowfall may occur even in mid-summer. Therefore, always be prepared and equipped for sudden severe weather changes.

In bad or unstable weather do not climb a pass or venture into exposed terrain above the tree line. Rather wait or return and seek shelter if the weather changes in a concerning manner. Carry at least a poncho to protect yourself if rain or snow closes in. In unstable weather keep your eyes open and memorize potential protected camp sites and puestos in case you are forced to turn around to seek shelter. Selected suitable camp sites are documented with waypoints in the track files.

All along the trail locals spoke about past incidents in which local inhabitants and outside visitors died of hypothermia in bad weather or got lost and sometimes disappeared without trace. Don’t add another story!

To anticipate weather changes we use the following weather forecast services:

- **With internet** access or mobile phone coverage we count on www.yr.no and www.windy.com.

  The www.yr.no weather forecast is provided by the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, covers the entire globe and is free of charge. Several residents of Patagonia independently recommended this provider to us and we experienced this forecast as very reliable. We installed the smartphone App and regularly check the weather forecast whenever we have mobile phone coverage. To save the weather forecast before going offline we simply make multiple screenshots.

  The wind forecast of www.windy.com is particular helpful when packrafting. This wind forecast predicts the general wind pattern and users should anticipate how this general wind pattern is changed by the local geography (mountains and valleys) that often redirect or shield the wind to some degree.

- **Without internet** or mobile phone coverage we use the **Garmin InReach** weather forecast service.

  The Garmin InReach satellite communicator provides a reasonable reliable weather forecast. To get a weather forecast the user must send a request and within 5 to 15 minutes he receives a weather forecast that includes temperatures, cloud cover, precipitation, and wind for the coming 2 to 3 days. When requesting a basic forecast, the user pays only for the message. For more information to this equipment see chapter 1.11.10 Communication on page 235.

1.9.6 Wind

Patagonia is infamous for the strong and enduring wind. The following rules of thumb apply:

1. As further south as stronger the wind gets. See Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties 🌎.
2. The summer is the windiest season of the year.
3. The wind comes predominantly from the west but gets diverted by the mountain ranges.

Wind affects packrafting substantially. Therefore, the timing and the travel direction over lake and fjord traverses must be planed and adopted accordingly. See 1.11.13.21.3 Planning on page 286. A sail might harvest the energy of the wind to accelerate packrafting on lakes and fjords. See 1.11.13.12 Wind and Packraft Sail on page 266. Also, a more wind resistant tent facilitates camping next to the shore whit less wind protection.

Hikers are less affected by wind but need to consider wind when choosing the appropriate tent and suitable camp sites. Especially starting from section GPT35 southbound wind becomes an issue (south of Lago General Carrera). The Magellan Region (sections GPT45 to GPT50) and Tierra del Fuego (GPT60 to GPT69) are particular windy. In open exposed areas wind can shred tents. Therefore, hikers that predominantly plan to walk in the south should select a particular wind resistant tent.

1.9.7 Sun Exposure

Don’t underestimate the sun, in particular when crossing large snow fields or large areas of bright volcanic ash. A proper head cover, sun cream and sunglasses are essential to prevent sunburn and snow-blindness. Don’t just carry this stuff but use it preventively.

Snow-blindness can disable you for a few days if you do not wear sunglasses while crossing large snow fields in bright sunlight. The effect of snow-blindness is normally not felt until several hours after exposure when the symptoms (pain, intense tears, eyelid twitching, discomfort) become evident. See also the Wikipedia article to Photokeratitis.

1.9.8 Heat Exposure

On the GPT and especially on sections GPT01 to GPT13 it might get unbearable hot in the afternoon on sunny summer days. Temperatures of 30°C and more are not uncommon on the GPT. If you have a limited heat tolerance, then start walking in the early morning and stop in the afternoon for a *siesta* in the shadow of a forest or next to the refreshing water of a river or lake. Once the temperature comes down in the early evening you might walk a few more hours. This is what *arrieros* habitually do to limit the burden on their horses and livestock.

Regardless of the temperature we always wear a head cover, long pants, and long sleeve shirts to protect our skin from the sun and the thorny vegetation along the trail. The *arriero* do the same; you will never see them without a heat or with exposed skin.

1.9.9 Wildfires

Tourists are frequently the cause of wildfires and rarely the victim. Chiles flagship hiking destination Torres del Paine suffered in the last decades three mayor wildfires with each of them burning down more than 100 km^2. All three wildfires were caused by tourists[27]. These events and many other wildfires resulted in a strict ban of open fires in National Parks. The National Park administration Conaf warns and advices:

- Free campfires are strictly prohibited under any circumstance (Law N° 20.653).
- Do not expose yourself to legal actions and expulsion from the protected area or even deportation in case of foreigners.
- Campfires are strictly prohibited, except in designated areas, and under appropriate conditions.
- Causing risk of forest fires is penalized with fine[28], jail or even deportation in case of foreigners[29].
- When using fire in authorized places, take into consideration the weather conditions and safety measures. Consider a place protected from the wind and avoid using fire under hazardous circumstances.
- Campfires must be under constant supervision and a safe distance from any type of fuel.
- When the campfire is no longer in use, thoroughly check that it was effectively extinguished.
- DO NOT Under any circumstances use fire in unauthorized places.

Arrieros and *pobladores* habitually use campfires and this is a tolerated practice. But this is outside of National Parks and hikers can not necessarily rely on the same laissez faire policy when making a campfire.

[27] See www.wikipedia.org.
[28] The minimum fine for an unauthorized campfire is 11 UTM (about 400 EUR) but may be substantially higher when causing a wildfire.
[29] Several foreign tourists that have been caught lightening a campfire in Torres del Paine and were deported out of Chile.

1.9.10 Volcanic Eruptions

The Greater Patagonian Trail snakes through the Southern Volcanic Zone and passes and crosses numerous volcanos. The trail is therefore plastered with signs of volcanic activity. Hot springs and beautiful mountain lakes that were dammed by lava flows are the "sunny side" of these volcanic activities; widespread devastating destruction is the other. Several major eruptions occurred in the vicinity of the trail in recent years and parts of the trail were temporarily closed due to increased volcanic activities.

Therefore, hikers should minimize exposure to such risks and be aware how to act in case of a volcanic eruption:

- Check the current volcano alerts at www.sernageomin.cl/red-nacional-de-vigilancia-volcanica.
- Respect the volcano alerts and do not venture into areas that are closed by local authorities.
- Some volcanos show an increased seismic activity shortly before an eruption therefore a series of small earthquakes may announce an imminent eruption. If you are close to a volcano get ready to run!
- Know your possible escape routes in case of a surprising eruption. Be aware that small streams and rivers that originate at the flanks of a volcano often rise immediately and become instantly impassable during an eruption. Therefore, seek higher ground if you are next to such a swelling river.
- In case of an eruption get distance between you and the volcano. If you have more than one option, try to get out of the ash rain. Consider that the predominant wind direction is from west to east.
- Try to get to a settlement since local authorities will do their best to evacuate the affected population.

1.9.11 Earthquakes

Two of the ten heaviest earthquakes in the 20th and 21st century had their epicenter near the Greater Patagonian Trail. The 1960 Valdivia earthquake had a magnitude of 9.5 and the 2010 Bio-Bio earthquake had magnitude of 8.8. In the first 15 years of this century more than 300 earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or more occurred in the area of the trail[30]. Therefore don't be surprised if the ground starts shaking.

An earthquake may cause rock falls, trigger landslides and cause tsunamis. To minimize your exposure to such risks be cautious when selecting your camp site. Avoid pitching your tent in areas where scree and rubble indicate a hazard zone below rocks and cliffs. If you get hit by an earthquake while walking look up to check the area above you for liberated material coming towards you. Seek shelter if needed. If a heavy earthquake occurs while walking or camping next to a fjord or a lake get immediately on higher ground to escape a potential tsunami. A landslide into a lake or fjord may cause a tsunami on the shore.

A good resource to understand the magnitude and epicenter of a recent earthquake is www.earthquake.usgs.gov.

1.9.12 Annoying and Assaulting Humans

In chapter 1.8.9 Security, Police and Borders on page 104 important security considerations are already discussed.

So far, harassing experiences on the trail occurred primarily with drunk people. Between 2015 and 2020 I learned about one incident in which a severely intoxicated *Pehuenche* attacked a hiker. The location is now highlighted in the track file.

[3030] Data retrieved from USGS for the area from -35°S to -45°S and -75°W to -70°W. The large majority are aftershocks of the major Bio-Bio earthquake in 2010.

1.9.13 Other Predatory Animals

There are no bears in South America. This makes hiking more relaxed when compared to North America. You can cook at your tent and store all your food in your tent without fearing a visit from a hungry bear.



Picture 114: Puma. Image: Luis Miguel Bugallo Sánchez (Lmbuga) www.wikimedia.org

The largest living predator in Patagonia (apart from humans) is the **Puma**, also called **Cougar** or **Mountain Lion**. They normally hide and avoid contact with humans. Wikipedia states: “Attacks on humans are very rare, as cougar prey recognition is a learned behaviour and they do not generally recognize humans as prey. (…) As with many predators, a cougar may attack if cornered, if a fleeing human stimulates their instinct to chase, or if a person "plays dead". Standing still however may cause the cougar to consider a person easy prey. Exaggerating the threat to the animal through intense eye contact, loud but calm shouting, and any other action to appear larger and more menacing, may make the animal retreat. Fighting back with sticks and rocks, or even bare hands, is often effective in persuading an attacking cougar to disengage.”. For more information see: Cougar attacks on humans on Wikipedia



Picture 115: Puma Footprint. Image: Jan D.

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Wild boar are other potentially dangerous animals even if not predators. They were introduced by humans and became an invasive species. These omnivores populate in particular the Araucania and love Araucaria *piñones*. Wikipedia states: “Although wild boars do not generally pose a threat to people, they occasionally attack humans. (…) Male boars become most aggressive during the mating season and may charge at humans at such times. Occasionally, female boars will attack if they feel their piglets are threatened, especially if a human physically comes between them and their young. Although a majority of boar attack victims recover with medical treatment, fatalities do occasionally occur.”. For more information see: Wild boar aggression towards humans on Wikipedia .

The Chilla or **grey fox** populates the southern cone of South America and can be found on both sides of the Andes in Chile and Argentina. Their diet is varied and includes small and medium mammals, carrion, birds, reptiles and fruits. They sometimes attack small livestock in particular young goats and sheep but there are no records of attacks on humans. Foxes do not always show fear of humans and sometimes approach camp sites at night in search of food. Therefore, do not leave any food outside of your tent but also not your smelly boots. In one camp site a fellow hiker missed one of his shoes in the morning. The park ranger later told us that this was not the first time that a fox has stolen a stinking shoe because foxes find intensive smell attractive.

1.9.14 Domesticated Animals

Most settlers and herdsmen have several **dogs** to protect their home and their animals. They often show aggressive behavior when approaching a home or a *puesto* but calm down when the owner shows up and talks with you. Therefore keep distance to the dogs as long as the owner is not in sight. You may slowly retreat and use your hiking poles as the last barrier of defence. Many

settlers and herdsmen discipline theirs dogs by throwing stones at them. Therefore, if you are charged by a dog or a pack of dogs stoop down and pick up rocks (or even just simulate it) and they usually turn tail and keep distance. The action of lowering your face to a barking dog is counter intuitive but can spare you some nasty scars or a scare. In extreme situations you may have to actually throw rocks at them.

In towns and villages you often encounter feral dogs (free-rooming dogs without an owner). These dogs are rarely aggressive but follow you in hope of food and attention. Make sure that such dogs don't follow you when leaving a town or village.

When camping next to a *puesto* or a settler's home guard your food constantly otherwise a hungry dog may serve himself.

Cattle are normally rather peaceful but bulls and cows with calves may become aggressive and attack if they feel threatened. Therefore, keep distance and do not try to pet them. A bigger thread is feral cattle. Especially in the far south domestic animals frequently escape and form wild populations. Such *baguales* are normally more aggressive and territorial than their domestic counterparts. Keep distance!

Goats are curious and always hungry which can be a bad combination for your gear. Keep them away from your camp site after you pitch your tent. Otherwise they may take a bite from your tent.

1.9.15 Molesting Insects

Tabanos or horse-flyes will form an annoying aerial escort on some parts of the route network. They are abundant in December and January in humid areas in example in the River- and Lake District in Chile.

These rather noisy flyers get attracted by dark moving objects in bright sunlight. So avoid dark clothes and do not try to chase them off with rapid movements, otherwise you will attract the attention of more. They inflict painful bites but do not leave an itch. These insects convert even the most peaceful hiker into a ruthless killer who will proudly claim multiple kills with a single stroke.

Piia Kortsalo and Oliver Baker made a useful observation that promises some deterrent: *Tabanos* tend to circle the highest moving object what normally is your head while walking. To get the *tabanos* out of the face they attached to the backpack a branch or bamboo shoot with some leaves at the top end. This creates at moving object high above the head what deviates the *tabanos*.

1.9.16 Spine and Bur-Bearing Plants

Along the entire route network you will encounter annoying Cenchrus plants with spine-covered seeds, that use bypassing animals to spread (and now they also use hikers). Common names include buffelgrass, sandburs and sand spur. When the seeds of these leg-high plants ripen then the very sharp spines harden and the seed easily detach from the stem.

The ripe seeds stick to most fabrics and can penetrate deep into the skin therefore be very careful when removing these thorny tiny balls from your clothes with your fingers. You can minimize "your collection" by wearing trousers made of a hard and dense fabric. I had several times a hidden broken off spine deep in a fingertip that resulted in a small wound that did not heal for days. I had to remove the spine by cutting into the skin and manually removing the spine fragment.

Other less bothersome but still annoying plants have bur-bearing seeds that stick to soft clothes like fleece but do not penetrate into the skin. Add images.

1.9.17 Diseases

The most dangerous animals for humans in Patagonia is a quite small one: the long-tailed pygmy rice rat (Oligoryzomys longicaudatus) and the long-haired grass mouse (Abrothrix longipilis). These two species are known to carry and transmit a particular aggressive strain of **Hanta-viruses** with a mortality rate of 30% to 40%.



Picture 116: The second most dangerous animals of Patagonia: mice (after humans). Image: Ministerio de Salut (Chile)

The typical incubation time is 1 to 3 weeks but also cases with 3 to 45 days between the suspected exposure and the disease outbreak have been reported. Early symptoms are similar to a flu and include fatigue, fever and muscle aches. Other possible symptoms are headaches, dizziness, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Seek medical attention if you experience such symptoms.

Wikipedia states: “There is no known antiviral treatment, but natural recovery from the virus is possible with supportive treatment. Patients with suspected hantavirus are usually admitted to the hospital and given oxygen and mechanical ventilation support to help them breathe during the acute pulmonary stage. As the virus can be transmitted by rodent saliva, excretia, and bites, control of rats and mice in areas frequented by humans is key for disease prevention.”

For more information see: Hantavirus on Wikipedia

The main source of infection are inhaled aerosols of mice droppings (urine and excrements). Therefore, the recommended preventive measures are:

- Avoid any contact with mice and mice droppings.
- Do no use shelters that are not well ventilated or where the presents of mice are visible (mice droppings).
- Keep your food protected and away from mice in particular at night. The same applies to pots, dishes and waste to not attract mice.
- Camp in clean, open areas that do not provide hideouts for mice. Avoid shrubbery.
- Use a tent with a closed floor and a fully concealed inner tent.
- Drink only secure water and disinfect or boil it if necessary.
- Do not eat low hanging wild fruits that may attract mice.



Picture 117: Preventive measures to avoid a Hantavirus infection in the outdoors. Image: Ministerio de Salut (Chile)

1.10 Travel Companion Considerations

The above listing of dangers on the GPT makes it self-evident that solo-hiking results in a higher personal risk. Therefore I personally prefer and generally recommend to hike and packraft in groups of at least two persons. This said, I also understand that the individual readiness to assume risks is different and that a particular cautious behavior when hiking solo may reduce the residual risk to a reasonable level. Solo hikers should therefore be particular vigilant, not compromise on the recommended emergency satellite communication equipment and have assigned supporters that are capable to initiate and coordinate a rescue.

It is my observation that the following constellations resulted in an enjoyable and long-lasting journey on the GPT:

- Couples with an intimate relationship and knowledge of each other's limits
- Small groups (2 to 4 persons) that know each other for years and joined for similar undertakings before
- Very experienced solo-hikers

The following constellations proved to be rather fragile:

- Groups of strangers that joined specifically for an adventure on the GPT
- Large groups (more than 4 persons)
- Unexperienced solo-hikers

The GPT frequently bugs it's guests with unexpected obstacles and often forces visitors to adopt and readjust plans. This works best between people that intimately know each other and that learned to take joint decisions under demanding circumstances.

Therefore, adding to an already unpredictable route network, a hiking companion that you do not know often tips the balance and such made-up groups typically split up after one or few sections. Then everybody needs to reconsider his options and possibly complete his equipment to maybe continue solo.

Based on these observations I recommend planning your endeavor on the GPT with your partner or a good friend. If your do not have such a hiking companion than consider a solo-hike provided you have the required experience. What I do not recommend is searching strangers in example in the GPT Facebook group to attempt a long-distance-hike or long-lasting packrafting trip on the GPT in such a made-up group.

But what often worked out well is temporary joining others on the GPT for a section or two AFTER you started on the GPT and became familiar with the nature and the challenges of this route network. The GPT Facebook group is the best way to check out who else is currently travelling in the same area with a similar pace and who may fit to you (and your partner).

We did this about half a dozen times with other couples or solo-hikers, and it was always a brilliant experience. And if the plan is to only walk ONE section together or to jointly investigate ONE exploration route than normally no frustration builds up if the rhythm and hiking pace is somewhat different. Of cause, if you feel comfortable with each other you may continue together but not having bigger plans takes out the pressure and the necessity to form a balanced group.

1.11 Equipment Considerations (To be issued)

This chapter discusses equipment considerations for an educated gear selection, but a comprehensive gear list is intentionally not provided. The reasons are:

- We appreciate the diversity of mindsets and choices in the hiking community and do not want to promote a specific attitude (e.g. ultra-light and fast versa a slower and more explorative attitude or a more comfortable and laid-back hiking culture).
- The quite different climatic conditions along the roughly 5000 km long route make different gear choices preferable.
- The different methods of travel (hiking only or packrafting and hiking) require different gear and enable different optimizations (e.g. when primarily packrafting with few shorter land traverses than weight becomes less relevant).

We are not sponsored or seek benefits from equipment manufacturers or retailers. Therefore, the listing or linking to specific products or online shops is not financially motivated.

1.11.1 Shelter

We prefer and recommend **double-wall tents** as such tents provide a safe space from poor weather and insects. We find it beneficial when the double-wall tent **can be pitched without exposing the inner tent to rain** (inner tent attaches to the outer tent and both components get assembled simultaneously, this applies in particular when hiking in the rainier south and when packrafting in the fjords). Free-standing tents do not provide a significant additional benefit as even free-standing tents should be secured with poles to the ground to maximize stability and wind resistance. The tent should be large enough to sit out a day or two in heavy rain.



Picture 118: Tent that is pitched with hiking poles only (TarpTent StratoSpire 2)

When hiking in the north we use a lighter tent that is pitched with hiking poles only (no aluminum arch poles as most other tents). The limited wind resistance and the necessity to use 6 to 8 stakes had not been a significant disadvantage in this region.

- TarpTent StratoSpire 2 with “solid” inner tent (1.2 kg) that requires two adjustable hiking poles for the setup

When packrafting or when hiking in the south (where wind is generally stronger) we use tents with Aluminum arch poles for added wind resistance and stability. Dome shaped tents and tunnel tents have both proved suitable.





Picture 119 and 120: More wind resistant tents with Aluminum arch poles. A poncho and fly sheet are set up for added rain shelter.
Left: Dome-shaped tent TarpTent Scarp 2. Right: Tunnel tent TerraNova Starlite 2.

- Dome shaped TarpTent Scarp 2 with “solid” inner tent and two optional crossing poles (2.2 kg)
- Tunnel tents TerraNova Starlite 2 (1.6 kg)

In rain we often setup a poncho or a fly-sheet in front of the tent entrance to create a rain cover for cooking and packing. Hiking poles or paddles (when packrafting) can be used to support the rain cover. When setting up such a temporary rain roof care must be taken that all areas of the fly-sheet are sloped to drain the rain and no water puddles can form on the roof.

A few hikers used tarps even on the more demanding southern sections, where rain and wind are frequent and strong. I recommend tarps only to hikers that are experienced with using this type of shelter.

When packrafting in remote unpopulated fjords a machete is very useful to clear a spot for the tent. The very dense vegetation covers the entire coast all the way to the seawater and when wind suddenly increases it may be required to shore and to camp in a suboptimal location. To this topic see also 1.11.13.21.9 Packrafting in Fjords an page 294.

Alternatively, hammocks with a tarp roof may be used when packrafting such remote unpopulated fjords. But hammocks are not particular suitable for the GPT in general since parts of the route traverse tree-less terrain.

1.11.2 Sleeping Gear

During the main travel season the nighttime temperatures occasionally drop to freezing temperature but rarely below. This applies to the entire GPT. Therefore, quilts and sleeping bags graded for 0°C or 32°F are suitable choices.

On the northern sections the generally dry climate favors lighter down quilts and sleeping bags. Here the temperatures may drop to 0°C during cloudless nights in high altitude or when a frontal system hits the Andes. During most seasons we had at least one or two nights with some snow even in mid-summer.

On the southern sections the more frequent rain and the wet climate makes synthetic sleeping gear more practical as this material maintains its insulating quality also when damp. This applies in particular when packrafting in the fjords. In poor weather mid-summer temperatures can wobble between 5°C and 10°C at sea level and drop to 0°C on the elevated parts of the GPT.

Foam and inflatable matrasses are both suitable. Foam mattresses are insensitive to punctures what makes them preferable in the northern arid areas with lots of thorny vegetation.

We used the following sleeping gear:

- Down sleeping bag Cumulus LITE LINE 400 when investigating sections GPT06 to GPT24
- Synthetic quilt Enlightened Equipment Prodigy rated for 20°F (-6°C) when investigating sections GPT25 to GPT39
- Folding foam mattress Therm-A-Rest Z-Lite SOL when investigating sections GPT06 to GPT24
- Inflatable two-person mattress EXPED SynMat HL Duo M when investigating sections GPT25 to GPT39

1.11.3 Backpack

A wide range of suitable lightweight backpack is available with frequent new developments and product updates. Most hikers have their preferences and I do not feel called to discuss this topic in more detail.

When packrafting then backpacks that double as drybags are preferable. See 1.11.13.17 Packrafting (Back)Packs on page 277.

We used the following backpacks on the GPT:

- ÜLA Catalyst (1.3 kg empty weight) when mainly hiking and investigating sections GPT06 to GPT24
- ÜLA Epic (1.2 kg empty weight) when mainly packrafting and investigating sections GPT25 to GPT39
- CRUX AK70 (1.65 kg empty weight) purchased for the coming seasons

1.11.4 Clothing

Hikers that plan to walk on the GPT should know what to pack for such an adventure from previous hikes. Therefore, this chapter only lists considerations and lessons learned for selecting the appropriate clothing without providing a full list of required items.

1.11.4.1 Clothing for Walking

Due to the partially poor and sporadic trail maintenance, scrub and thorny vegetation occasionally obstructs the (horse) trails[31]. This makes short trousers and short sleeve (T-)shirts less suitable for the GPT. Long sleeve clothing also provides the better protection from insects and shields the skin from UV-sunlight effectively.

To protect our legs when hiking we now use only long trousers made of dense, sturdy and rather heavy fabrics. Thin light-weight fabrics are easily punctured by thorny vegetation and soft fabrics collect spike-covered seeds that often grow along the trails. My favourite trousers are:

- Haglöfs Rugged II Mountain (The only trousers that survived more than one season)

For the upper body we prefer long-sleeve (T-)shirts. (T-)shirts in bright colours have two benefits: they reflect sunlight on hot days and attract less *tabanos* (annoying day-active blood-sucking insects).

In addition, we often wear cycling gloves with short fingers when walking with hiking poles. Such gloves provide a good sun and

[31] Trail maintenance if often made y and for horseback riders that clear the horse trail primarily in an elevation between 1 m to 2 m above the ground but not necessarily the undergrowth from the ground to an elevation of about 1 m.

skin protection. An additional pair of fleece gloves might be useful on cold and rainy days especially in spring and autumn when cold days are more frequent. Packrafters may carry neoprene gloves that are also perfectly suitable for hiking on cold wet days.

We only use clothing made of synthetic fibres. Synthetic material is generally lighter, absorbs less water and dries faster than most natural fibres (in example no cotton that can absorb a large amount of water and takes long to dry).

1.11.4.2 Head Cover

A good head cover for sun and rain protection is highly advisable. Depending on the weather we use:

On sunny days:

- Bandana with forehead shade,
- or a baseball cap with a neck-shade,
- or a fabric head.

On cold rainy days or when packrafting:

- Waterproof (Gore-Tex) head,
- and/or a water repellent cap (coated fleece or neoprene cap that we carry primarily for packrafting).

Hikers and packrafters that wear glasses will appreciate heads that shield glasses from droplets in rain or when paddling.

1.11.4.3 Rain Gear

Classic rain gear (rain jacket and rain trousers or poncho) does not keep hikers dry but protect primarily against the cold. Therefore, we are not particular cautious to keep feet and legs dry while walking but we use rain gear primarily to shield the upper body and the head against heat loss to effectively prevents hypothermia[32].

Our choice of rain protection depends on the region and method of travel.

When hiking the northern sections during the summer months we consider a poncho sufficient because rain is infrequent. A poncho is quickly put on and off what is great in changeable weather. When the weather gets really bad we normally seek shelter and wait for the weather to improve.

But when hiking the northern sections in spring or autumn a proper rain jacket seems the better choice to prevent hypothermia on cold rainy days or when a *temporal* (blizzard) delivers a load of snow.

On the rainy and windy southern sections, rain gear is more frequently needed. This makes a proper rain jacket advisable that provides a better protection against hypothermia than a poncho. To protect the legs either rain trousers or a rain skirt may be used.

Packrafters anyway need a drysuite which doubles as rain gear for hiking on wet and cold days. To make the drysuite hiking-proof

[3232] The frequent river fords result anyway in wet feed and wet trousers. Only a (packrafting) drysuite keeps a hiker really dry.

we strongly recommend drysuites with integrated latex feet[33]. Fabric feet would quickly get worn and start to leak when used while hiking. The drysuite does not only shields the rain but keeps the hiker dry and warm even when crossing icy, glacier-feed rivers.

The disadvantages of a drysuite are the awkward process of putting the drysuite on and off and the increased fabric wear when walking in the drysuite with a backpack. Therefore, it might be a good idea to also carry poncho that is quickly put on and off to shield off a brief shower in tempered weather. Such a poncho can double as a rain roof in front of the tent entrance.

Summary of rain gear suggestion:

- Less rainy northern sections during summer: Poncho that fits over the backpack
- Rainy and windy southern sections or hiking in spring or autumn: Rain jacket and maybe rain trousers or rain skirt
- When packrafting: Packrafting drysuite and maybe a poncho that doubles as rain roof when camping

1.11.4.4 Clothing for Sleeping

For sleeping, we carry one set of long underwear (fleece leggings and a long-sleeve T-shirt) that we never wear while hiking. This preserves one layer of dry and clean cloth for a more comfortable sleep. We pack this cloth typically with our sleeping gear.

In the morning after a rainy day it is quite unpleasant to undress the dry and cosy sleeping garment and slide in the wet and cold hiking clothing, but this annoyance pays off in the evening when changing back into dry sleepwear.

[33] Latex feet are surprisingly wear resistant and can be repaired with bicycle patched when punctured.

1.11.4.5 Eyewear

Sunglasses are very important when traversing snow fields and bright open areas (in example volcanic ash fields) otherwise the intense light causes snow-blindness. The effect of snow-blindness is normally not felt until several hours after exposure when the symptoms (pain, intense tears, eyelid twitching, discomfort) become evident. See also the Wikipedia article to Photokeratitis.

1.11.5 Shoes

When we started investigating the GPT in 2013 we had not learned that classic hiking boots are not suitable for hiking. But after some suffering, we finally recognized that heavy leather boots are not a good choice for long-distance-hiking in general and for the GPT in particular because:

- Heavy boots with stiff soles are tiring for the body and cause foot pain especially when walking on easy-going terrain.
- The frequent river fords and the muddy trail sections are best crossed with fast-drying shoes without taking the shoes off. Crossing rivers barefoot is prohibitive. See 1.9.3 River Crossings on page 163.
- Once wet, leather boots take days to dry.

Light trail-running shoes proved for us more suitable even if such shoes were out after 500 to 1000 km. To prevent mud and spines from entering the shoes we prefer trail-running shoes with integrated gaiters. The following shoes come with integrated gaiters (in alphabetic order):

- Adidas Terrex Agravic Tech Pro
- Adidas Terrex Free Hiker Cold (probably suitable for colder and rainier southern sections)

- La Sportiva Crossover 2.0 GTX
- Salomon S-LAB XA Alpine 2 (we used these shoes two seasons)
- Scrapa Neutron G

Hikers that walk with simple trail-running-shoes should use gaiters.

Hikers that dislike walking in wet shoes may consider carrying a second pair of light-weight wet-shoes for river crossings. Especially when packrafting, such water-shoes are beneficial because entering and exiting the packraft requires submerging the legs into the water. Packrafters may select slightly larger water-shoes to easily enter and exit these shoes with the drysuite, neoprene socks and maybe one or two extra pairs of socks to prevent cold feet. I use and recommend the following water-shoe model:

- Vivobarefoot Ultra III Bloom (the material does not absorb water)

To prevent cold feet, we often wear neoprene socks when crossing icy rivers, when walking on muddy trails or when traversing snow fields (made off 2 mm to 3 mm thick neoprene). Neoprene socks are also very useful to keep feet warm when packrafting. If the neoprene socks are dry we wear them inside of the drysuite, otherwise outside.

After walking a day with wet feet, it is essential to change socks and dry the feet immediately as soon as the tent is pitched. Feet should not remain more than 12 hours per day wet to prevent trench foot. Link to trench foot

1.11.6 Hiking Poles

We normally hike with two hiking poles (two per hiker). The reasons are:

- Hiking poles reduce the risk of slips on the often poorly maintained trails,
- hiking poles transfer extra power from the arms to the ground when ascending,
- hiking poles minimize stress on knees when descending,
- hiking poles make river fords safer,
- hiking poles can reduce the weight of the tent if a model without internal arch poles is chosen,
- and hiking poles can be used to setup an additional rain cover in front of the tent entrance.

We replace the hiking pole tips between hiking seasons if noticeably worn[34]. For this, the plastic tip section must be submerged in boiling water for some time and then cautiously twisted off with pliers. The replacement tip must be of the appropriate size and is simply slide onto the hiking pole segment without any glue[35].

[34] The metal-carbide tip gets normally not worn but the material that supports and carries the metal-carbide tip is worn off.
[35] The cone-shaped geometry and friction results in a reliable and long-lasting fitting.

1.11.7 Fuel and Cooking Systems and Fuels

Multiple cooking systems and fuels are extensively used on the GPT and there is no good reason to recommend one specific option. Best select what you habitually use and what fits best to the planned sections.

A small number of hikers and packrafters opted against cooking on the trail and subsidized on uncooked food only.



Picture 121: Lindal B188 threaded valve (EN417)

1.11.7.1 Camping Gas Stoves

Camping gas cartridges are widely available in Chile and Argentina. The available cartridges have the internationally standardized threaded valve[36] as shown on Picture 121. Therefore, the common “Screw-On” burners work perfectly fine with these locally purchased fuel containers. What you cannot find in Chile and Argentina are “Easy-Clic” gas canisters (French CampingGaz system). Therefore, if opting to cook with gas make sure to bring the right type of burner (with a standard thread).

Note, that is strictly prohibited to carry gas cartridges on an aircraft even when empty. Checked in luggage gets normally X-rayed and bags with camping gas cartridges are not loaded on the aircraft, therefore DO NOT attempt carry camping gas cartridges when travelling by air.

[36] 7/16" UNEF threaded valve according to the European Standard EN417. The correct technical designation for this valve is Lindal B188. See www.wikipedia.org

We now mostly cook with camping gas because it is:

- widely available in Chile and Argentina,
- light (lighter than gasoline stoves but heavier than alcohol stoves),
- quickly set up and started (no pre-heating like gasoline stoves),
- clean (no soot, no annoying smoke or gasoline fumes),
- easy to regulate (what saves fuel and facilities cooking),
- with a large heat output for frying (alcohol stoves are unsuitable for frying),
- and suitable for cooking in the rain cover of a partially opened tent.

Cartridges are sold in large supermarkets, *ferreterías* (tools stores) and in outdoor shops. In tourist hotspots also smaller shops sell these cartridges. The cartridges with the threaded valve come in three sizes but only two sizes are widely available in Chile and Argentina. Also, the camping gas aerosol cans are sold frequently.



Picture 122: Available camping gas cartridges.
Left: Large Cartridge (460 g gas content)
Centre: Regular Cartridge (230 g gas content)
Right: Aerosol Can (230 g gas content)
Image: www.broncos.co.nz

Valve Type	Size	Availability in Chile and Argentina	Fuel Content	Empty Weight	Total Full Weight	Price in Chile
Threaded Valve EN417	**Small**	Normally not available.	105 g ± 5 g (4 oz)	100 g ± 5 g	205 g ± 10 g	n/a
	Regular	Most common size.	225 g ± 5 g (8 oz)	140 g ± 10 g	365 g ± 15 g	2500 to 3000 CLP
	Large	Often available.	455 g ± 5 g (16 oz)	210 g ± 10 g	665 g ± 15 g	5000 CLP
Aerosol Can		Often available. Good for refilling.	225 g ± 5 g (8 oz)	100 g ± 5 g	325 g ± 10 g	1500 CLP

Table 6: Camping gas cartridge sizes and weight based on www.troop281.org and actual measurements







Picture 123: Gas cartridge tripod stand.

Picture 124 and 125: “Screw-On” and “Stand-Alone” stove. Image: www.trekking-lite-store.com

For many years we used a classic gas stove that screws on top of the cartridge (“Screw-On” MSR PocketRocket Stove). Such a stove is perfect for solo travelers. A gas cartridge tripod stand that attaches to the base of the cartridge increases stability.

When using a large cartridge in combination with a larger pot for two persons, then the assembly with the pot on top is quite tall and instable. To have a more secure and wind protected setup, we now got a gas stove that stands on the ground and that connects to the gas container with a hose (“Stand-Alone” EOE Palladium stove).

Heating one liter of cold water to boiling temperature requires approximately 10 g of gas (no wind, pot with lid, aluminum wind shield and heat reflector). Suboptimal conditions, especially wind or no lid increase the fuel consumption substantially. For a hot drink at breakfast and a warm dinner with more hot drinks approximately 15 to 30 g of gas should be planned per person per day.

When resupplying, then a partially used gas cartridge should either be replaced, complemented by an additional cartridge, or refilled depending on the remaining amount of fuel in the cartridge and the expected consumption on the next section(s). The most precise method to calculate the remaining gas content is to weight the new (full) gas cartridge on purchase and to recheck the weight when resupplying. The weight difference is the fuel consumption. Alternatively subtract the empty weight (see Table 6) from the current weight to calculate the remaining fuel content. Most grocery stores in Chile and Argentina have a precision scale and you may ask the personal to weight your new or partially used cartridge when buying groceries. Best check the weight of a new cartridge on purchase and write or scratch the total weight on the canister for future reference.

Alternatively, the gas content of a cartridge can be verified by placing the canister in water and checking the submersion depth. A full (heavier) cartridge submerges deeper than a partially consumed (lighter) cartridge. The change of the submersion depth corresponds to the fuel consumption. This method it is suitable for monitoring the gas consumption on the trail since this method requires only a pot, water and a short metric scale.



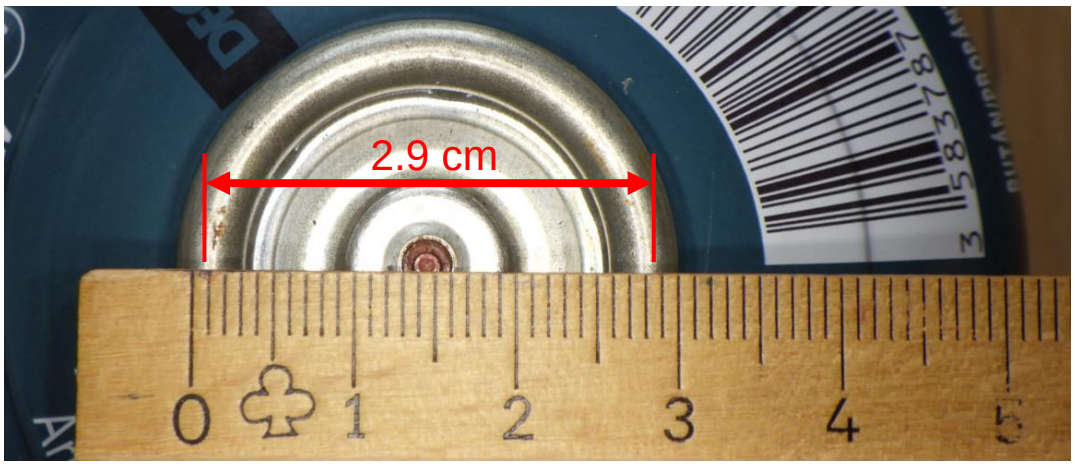
Picture 126: Verifying the gas cartridge content with the submersion method

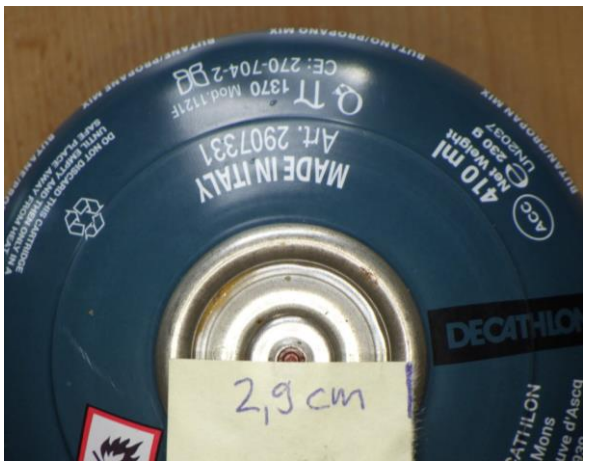
Best mark the submersion depth on a new cartridge after purchase for future reference either with a waterproof pen, a sticker, a piece of tape or a scratch mark. The table below can be used to estimate the remaining amount of gas.[37]

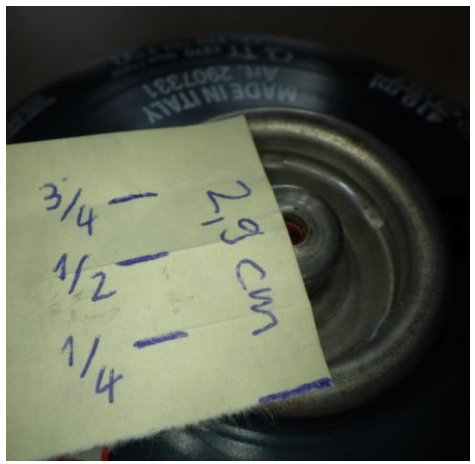
Regular Cartridge with Threaded Valve (225 g Gas Content)				**Large Cartridge with Threaded Valve (455 g Gas Content)**			
Cartridge diameter: 10.0 cm 1 cm change of submersion depth corresponds to 79 g				Cartridge diameter: 10.6 cm 1 cm change of submersion depth corresponds to 88 g			
Change of Submersion Depth	Submersion Depth[38]		Remaining Gas Content	**Change of Submersion Depth**	Submersion Depth		Remaining Gas Content
	With Water Filled Bottom	With Air Bubble at Bottom			With Water Filled Bottom	With Air Bubble at Bottom	
0.0 cm	5.9 cm	4.7 cm	Full: 225 g	0.0 cm	9.2 cm	7.9 cm	Full: 455 g
0.7 cm	5.2 cm	4.0 cm	3/4: 170 g	0.7 cm	8.6 cm	7.3 cm	7/8: 400 g
1.5 cm	4.5 cm	3.3 cm	1/2: 115 g	1.3 cm	7.9 cm	6.6 cm	3/4: 340 g
2.2 cm	3.7 cm	2.5 cm	1/4: 55 g	2.0 cm	7.3 cm	6.0 cm	5/8: 285 g
2.9 cm	3.0 cm	1.8 cm	**Empty**: 0 g	2.6 cm	6.6 cm	5.3 cm	1/2: 230 g
The change of the submersion depth is the more accurate reference, therefore best mark the submersion depth before first use. Deploy the same submersion method for monitoring the gas consumption (with water filled bottom or with air bubble).				3.3 cm	6.0 cm	4.7 cm	3/8: 170 g
				3.9 cm	5.3 cm	4.0 cm	1/4: 115 g
				4.6 cm	4.7 cm	3.4 cm	1/8: 55 g
				5.2 cm	4.0 cm	2.7 cm	**Empty**: 0 g

Table 7: Camping gas cartridge gas content check with submersion method

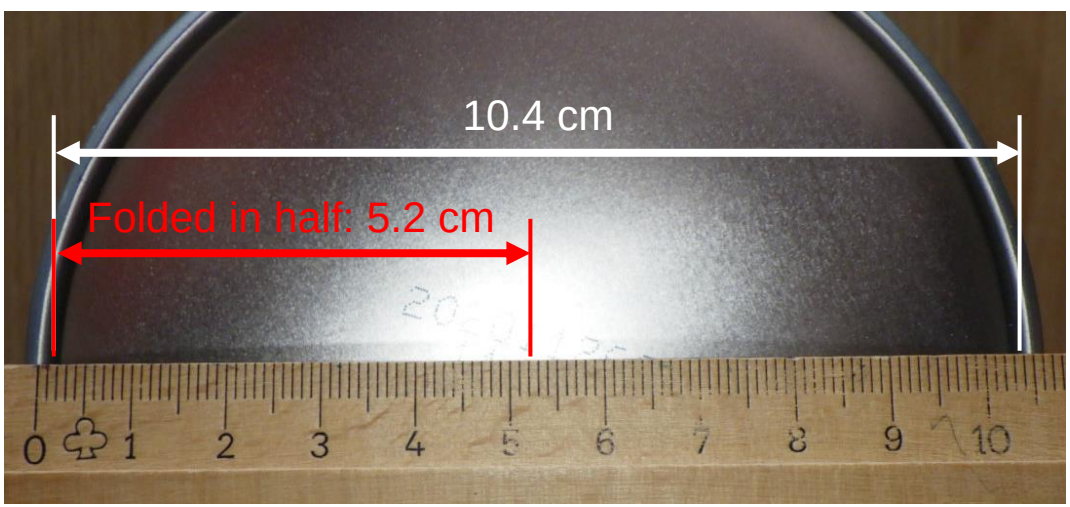
[37] When using this method and table make sure to keep the cartridge vertical in the water in example by placing the cartridge in a pot and slowly filling the pot with water until the cartridge starts floating. This method measures the submersion depth with an air bubble at the bottom.
[38] Submersion depth measured from the bottom edge of the cartridge.







Picture 128, 129 and 130: Regular Cartridge: Creating an improvised paper scale to measure the gas consumption with the flotation method.



Picture 127: Large Cartridge: Inner radius of base is reference length

If not equipped with a metric scale, a piece of paper can be used to improvise a scale by shortening the paper to a reference distance on the cartridge and folding the paper into a scale.

Regular Cartridge: Diameter of valve is 2.9 cm (see image) which corresponds to the change of submersion depth between a full and an empty regular cartridge.

Large Cartridge: Inner radius of bottom is 5.2 cm (change of submersion depth between full and empty large cartridge).

The cheap camping gas aerosol cans are suitable for refilling the more expensive cartridges with a threaded valve. This requires a small 5 g light adapter that can be purchased online. The gas transfer works best by slightly heating the upper full container by hand while transferring gas into the lower empty or partially used cartridge (gas moves from the warmer to the colder vessel). Cooling both canisters in a freezer or fridge also facilitates the fuel transfer.

When refilling, then make sure to not overfill the container. Otherwise, the cartridge my explode when heated while cooking. To prevent overfilling check the weight of the canister during and after refilling (either with a scale or with the submersion method). If the submersion depth was marked on the full container before first use than this mark is an excellent reference for refilling. If the cartridge submerges deeper than the full mark, then the cartridge is overfilled, and gas should be transferred back.



Picture 131: Refill adapter. Image: www.wish.com

Especially a large cartridge (approx. 455 g of gas when full) can be safely refilled with a camping gas aerosol can (230 g of gas) if the cartridge is less than half empty. Or an aerosol can may be carried on a particular long section as backup if cooking on a regular sized cartridge.

There are also adapters available to transfer gas between threaded cartridges, but these are of less use for most long-distance hikers. Such adopters are useful at home to merge the content of several partially used threaded cartridges into one container.

1.11.7.2 Alcohol Stoves

Alcohol is a less common camping fuel in Chile and normally not sold in supermarkets. But denatured alcohol is available in pharmacies as *alcohol desnaturalizado*. You may also try in *ferreterías* (tools stores) or drugstores (Preunic, Dr. Simi).

In Argentina denatured alcohol is also sold as *alcohol de quemar* and offered by some supermarkets.

The lower heat output makes alcohol stoves unpractical for frying but hikers that opt for ultra-light alcohol stoves have other priorities than preparing sophisticated meals. Therefore, alcohol stoves are suitable for solo hikers and couples that optimize their gear for a minimum base weight and use the stove for quickly cooked food and hot drinks only.

1.11.7.3 Gasoline Stoves

Only few hikers used gasoline stoves because the comparable high base weight rarely compensates for the higher energy density of the fuel. Also, the necessary pre-heating and the unpleasant smell makes gasoline less comfortable than camping gas. Gasoline might be favorable for:

- large groups that cook in large pots (a gasoline stove has a higher heat output than most gas stoves),
- that travel in cold and wet regions (wood burning stoves or campfires are less practical),
- and that attempt long traverses that last two weeks or more.
- Gasoline is also the cheaper than camping gas and *alcohol desnaturalizado*.

1.11.7.4 Wood Burning Stoves

Several hikers opted for wood burning stoves and did not regret their choice. Such stoves eliminate the necessity to carry fuel what pays off when combining multiple sections into long traverses. Wood burning stoves makes it also irrelevant to ration fuel and hikers can have as much hot drinks as they wish. The disadvantages of this option are:

- In some **national parks** collecting and burning wood is **strictly prohibited**.
- In most places fuel is abandoned but further south on the GPT it may be difficult finding dry wood especially during rainy periods when warm food is most needed.
- The stove needs constant attention and frequent feeding with wood (every 1 to 2 min).
- The comparable lower heat output makes such a stove less practical for frying.
- The smoke inhibits cooking with such a stove in the rain cover of a partially open tent.
- The thick soot layer on the outside of the pot(s) requires scrubbing the pots after each use to not contaminate other items in the backpack.



Picture 132: Wood burning stove. Image: Jan Dudeck

These limitations make wood burning stoves less practical for wet areas with frequent heavy rain but on sections GPT01 to GPT16 such stoves are a good choice. If willing and prepared to occasionally skip cooking in the evening and eating cold dinner, then such stoves may also be used further south on the GPT where rain is more abundant.

1.11.7.5 Campfires

Campfires are the traditional method of cooking in the wilderness, but the wildfire hazard makes this method in many places prohibitive. No hiker should therefore rely on campfires. See to this subject chapter 1.9.9 Wildfires on page 171.

But where permitted and when safe campfires can be lighted to prepare elaborated meals without consuming rationed fuel. *Puestos* with an established fireplace outside of national parks might be a suitable location, if the wildfire hazard is not elevated during a drought or by windy, hot weather.

We carry self-made gear to support pots and frying pans over an open fire. Sometimes we also carried pots that can be converted into a tiny fireproof oven to bake bread and pizza on the trail. We also have extended cooking sessions when granted access to a *puesto* with a proper wood-fired stove.

All this adds weight to the backpack and cuts off some hiking time, but we happily slow down to appreciate our route explorations in this manner. We measure our performance in enjoyable days under the sky while researching new routes and not in kilometers travelled.



Picture 133: Campfire in a *puesto*. Image: Jan D.





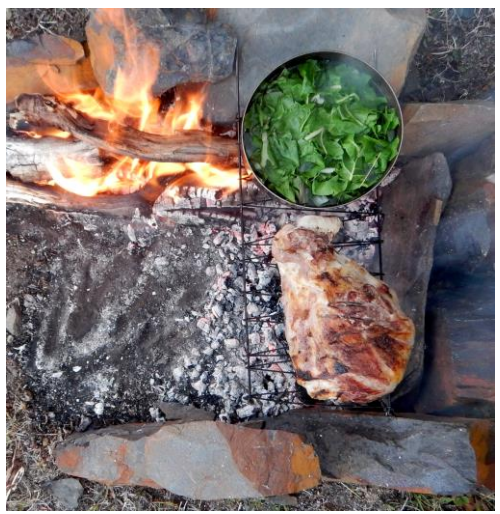




Picture 134: The leisure of cooking







1.11.7.6 Cooking Equipment

We carry more kitchen gear than many other hikers because we enjoy elaborated meals. For us, these leisure hours next to the tent while cooking and feasting are worth the extra weight. Others do perfectly fine with less. Especially solo hikers that optimized their gear to walk with comfort from sunrise to sunset need often not more than a light-weight alcohol stove, a small pot and a spoon. Therefore, my listing should not be mistaken as a recommendation but as an opportunity to maybe pick up some ideas.



Picture 135: Toaks POT-2000-BH. Image: www.trekking-lite-store.com

We now carry a single 2 liter titan pot (Toaks POT-2000-BH) which is just large enough to cook 400 g of pasta for two persons. A titan pot can be placed over a campfire as long as the pot is filled with water. The uncoated surface permits cleaning the pod inside and outside with a stainless steel scrubber.

For frying we carry a nonstick-coated aluminum skillet (MSR Quick Skillet). We also use it for toasting bread and cooking dishes that would otherwise quickly stick and burn in an uncoated titanium or stainless steel pot[39]. The large diameter and the high walls give this skillet a volume of 1.2 liter what make it more versatile than a classic frying pan.



Picture 136: Cooking *Piñones* with goat meat in a MSR Quick Skillet. Image: JD

The combination of one pot and a skillet seams ideal for two people with our food preferences.

[39] Titanium and stainless-steel have a lower heat conductivity than aluminum and require therefore constant stirring of viscous food.



Picture 137: MSR Alpine 2 Pot Set. These uncoated stainless steel pots that can be converted in a fireproof mini-oven. Image: Jan Dudeck

During previous hikes we deployed a stainless steel pot set consisting of a 2 liter and a 1.5 liter vessel (MSR Alpine 2 Pot Set instead of the titan pot mentioned above). We opted for this set to cook over fire and occasionally bake bread and pizza.

Stainless steel has a substantially higher heat resistance than aluminum or titan therefore these uncoated pots can be placed directly in the fire even when empty. To convert these pots into a mini-oven I fabricated out of stainless steel welding wire four clamps that hold and lift the smaller pot inside the bigger pot. The air gap between both pots results in a better temperature distribution what facilitates baking without burning the dough[40].

To cut, prepare and serve food we have one large plastic plate (MSR DeepDishware Plate Size L). The plate base is strong enough to be used as cut board. For transport the skillet nests well into this large plate (see images on next page).

[40] It needs some learning with trial and error to get the temperature right and regular turning helps baking the content evenly.

To serve hot drinks and prepare deserts we use one large cup with a lid and a foam isolation sleeve (SeaToSummit Delta Insulated-Mug).

We also carry two sporks with a long handle (SeaToSummit).

To move and turn food while frying we have a spoon-spatula combination (edelried).

To cook and grill over a campfire I fabricated in the last years two light-weight grills.



Picture 138: MSR Quick Skillet and MSR DeepDishware Plate Size L that nest together. Cup, long spork and spadula. Image: Jan Dudeck

The more ridged grill has a weight of approx. 250 g, is made of stainless steel welding wires and assembles into a stable platform on four legs that are pushed into the ground.

The substantially lighter grill has a weight of only 30 g, is made of a 1 mm stainless steel rope and tiny stainless steel clamps. This gill must be suspended with tent stakes, wood or stones. Both grills support two pots or a large piece of meat.





Picture 139: MYOG (make you own gear) dismountable grill made of stainless steel welding wires by only cutting and bending. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.8 Food

1.11.8.1 Cooked Meals

Dehydrated instant meals that are simply poured in boiling water are not widely available in Chile and Argentina. Only **instant noodles** (Ramen) and **instant soups** are in supply in most supermarkets. Therefore, we assemble a varied diet with what is widely available.

Pasta is the classic hiking dinner. Instead of Spaghetti we now cook Spirali as they are easier to handle and stick less in an always too small pot. Hikers that want to cut down on cooking time may opt for *Cabellos de ángel*. These thin noodles are ready to eat after 3 minutes in boiling water. Instead of rather heavy liquid tomato sauce we carry powdered tomato soup that works equally well. We often add some olive oil, garlic and onions (fresh or dehydrated), spices (e.g. Oregano, Basil, Chili), Salami and plenty of parmesan cheese. Also, finely cut dehydrated tomatoes can be added to the water when start cooking. Who likes it more simple may just add some olive oil, garlic and parmesan to the pasta. We also like the Ravioli and Tortellini that are offered in most shops. These pastas with fillings have a few more calories due to the higher fat content.

Mashed potatoes are widely available as *puré de papas* and come either with or without milk added. Since we carry milk powder both options work for us. We normally add a few more ingredients like olive oil, garlic, onions, spices, Salami and cheese. Since the mashed potato powder is simply mixed into boiling hot water this is a quickly prepared meal that requires little fuel.

Couscous becomes increasingly popular in Chile and Argentina. The simple preparation makes it the perfect hikers food. We often add olive oil, nuts, and raisins.

Rice is a stable food in Chile and Argentina. In Chile you find small packs of parboiled rice with spices and decorative quantities of dehydrated vegetables. The disadvantage of these meals is the cooking time of 15 to 20 minutes. This makes it favourable to cook rice when using wood as fuel. If you like it sweat use plain rice and add milk powder, sugar, and cinnamon towards the end of the cooking process after the rice became soft and somewhat sticky.

Instant polenta is another quickly prepared meal, but it also requires additional ingredients to make it tasty.

Semolina (*Sémola*) can be added to instant soups to make them more nutritious. Semolina also serves to prepare sweat meals by briefly cooking *Sémola* in milk and adding sugar and cinnamon or chocolate powder at the end.

If you want occasionally **fresh bread** on the trail you may carry flour (*harina*) and baking powder (*polvo de hornear*). Simply mix the flour with some baking powder and salt and bake the dough it in oil. This requires an anti-stick coated frying pan or skillet. Alternatively add milk powder, sugar and dried fruits (e.g. raisins) to the dough to make sweat bread. By adding also some (candied) ginger you can give this sweat bread a special taste.

With the immigration from Columbia ***harina de arepa*** is now widely available. Simply mix it with some salt and water and fry the flatbreads it some oil in a pan or skillet.

Legume (beans, peas, chickpeas, lentils) are widely available but the required soaking and cooking time make these protein-rich vegetables a less practical hiking food. And processed legume that are cooked within minutes are not available in most shops. An exception are **red lentils** and **quinoa** that can be found in large supermarkets and require about 15 min cooking time.

Large supermarkets (Jumbo, Totus, Lider) have often a small section with imported food items. Here we found some German dehydrated products like *Kartoffelpuffer* (potato fritter), *Knödel* (dumplings), *Röstzwiebeln* (fried onions) and *Paradies Creme* (desert cream) that can be easily prepared on the trail or added to other meals. *Röstzwiebeln* are an excellent “additive” for many cooked meals and the high fat content gives them an excellent energy to weight ratio.

To cook in this manner, we normally carry a plastic bottle with **olive oil**. Depending on the expected duration between resupplies we refill 250 ml to 500 ml of olive oil in a soft drink plastic bottle. No other food item has a better energy to weight ratio than fat[41] and olive oil can be added to many meals.

To **spice** and enrich our food we carry at least salt, *ajo* (garlic, fresh or dehydrated), *pimienta* (pepper), *ají merken* (the chili of Chile), oregano and parmesan cheese[42]. C*arne de soya* (soy meat) and *Callampas secas* (dehydrated mushrooms) are two more ingredients that can be added to many cooked meals.

For hot drinks and sweat meals we also carry *azucar* (sugar), instant chocolate powder and sometimes *canela* (cinnamon).

When resupplying we often start with one or two onions for the first days. Sometimes, we also buy some *longanizas* (sausages) or other perishable fresh food for the first cooked meal.

[41] 1 g of pure fat contains 39 kJ (9 cal), 1 g of pure carbohydrates (sugar, starch) contains 17 kJ (4 cal) and 1 g of pure protein also contains 17 kJ (4 cal).
[42] Ground parmesan cheese is sold in Chile in practical packs of 40 g and 80 g.

1.11.8.2 Cold Meals

Finding **cereals** that are not overloaded with sugar is not an easy task in Chile and Argentina. The big supermarkets offer decent imported “Müsli” but in smaller shops it might need some reading of the fine-print to select one of the less toxic granola mixtures.

Milk powder is available in practically all shops. We use *leche en polvo entera instantánea* to make the milk for our morning cereals and for cooking (unskimmed milk powder that easily resolves also in cold water).

Chileans eat more **bread** per capita than any other nation in Latin America but this does not translate in a large variety of bread. The lion’s share is wheat bread that comes in different shapes and textures. The most common shape is the Hallulla, a circular flat roll of rather compact texture and a weight of about 100 g per piece. The Marraqueta comes second and has a more crisp and lofty consistence when fresh. In towns I clearly prefer the Marraqueta but for the trail the more compact Hallulla is more practical. These mainstay breads not priced per piece but paid per kilogram. Getting a whole grain sourdough bread can be challenging in smaller towns and villages but large supermarkets have substantially larger selections of bread that satisfies most tastes.

Packaged **tortillas** are also widely available and suitable as trail food. We often use these tortillas to make quesadillas by heating two tortillas with cheese in between in our skillet.

In most shops you find the classic **savory bread toppings** like salami, other cold cuts and cheese but don’t expect any culinary revelations in Chile. Chile got it’s language from Spain but not it’s cuisine. Getting a hearty matured cheese or a good dry-aged ham in Chile needs some luck and even more money. But since no miracles are needed to satisfy a starving hiker most backpackers do perfectly fine with the available choices.

If you like **sweat bread toppings** try *manjar* (Chile) or *dulce de leche* (Argentina) which is made of caramelized sweetened milk. Another local speciality is *dulce de membrillo*, a kind of marmalade but much firmer what makes it more suitable for carrying in a backpack. In larger shops you often find *mantequilla de mani* (peanut butter) and rather expensive imported chocolate cream (e.g. Nutella).

Harina tostada has already been recommended in the chapter Traditional Food and Drink and is a suitable trail food for hikers who like it.

Dried fruits and nuts are widely available but rather expensive.

The selection of **sweet and savory snacks** is unhealthy large even in smaller shops.

For the first one or two days we often carry some fresh fruits (apples) and vegetables (carrots, avocados).

When it comes to fine food Argentina is in the lead but do not dear to take any cheese, salami, or raw ham over the border to Chile. See chapter 1.8.18 What to Bring and What to Leave on page 138 to this restriction.

1.11.8.3 Drinks

In practically all shops you find large selections of ***jugo en polvo***, a sugary mix that is added to cold water to make it taste somewhat like fruit juice (SPRIM, ZUKO). One pack is meant to be mixed with one liter of water, but we prefer it more diluted. There are also brands that promise to generate isotonic drinks (GO!).

Instant coffee, **tea**, **herbal infusions** and **instant sweat chocolate** (Tody, Milo, Colacao) are part of every shops inventory. Good pure chocolate powder is less frequent but available in large supermarkets.

1.11.8.4 Other Suggestions

To check upfront available products and prices in Chile see www.jumbo.cl. But do not expect such a wide selection in small towns and villages close to the route.

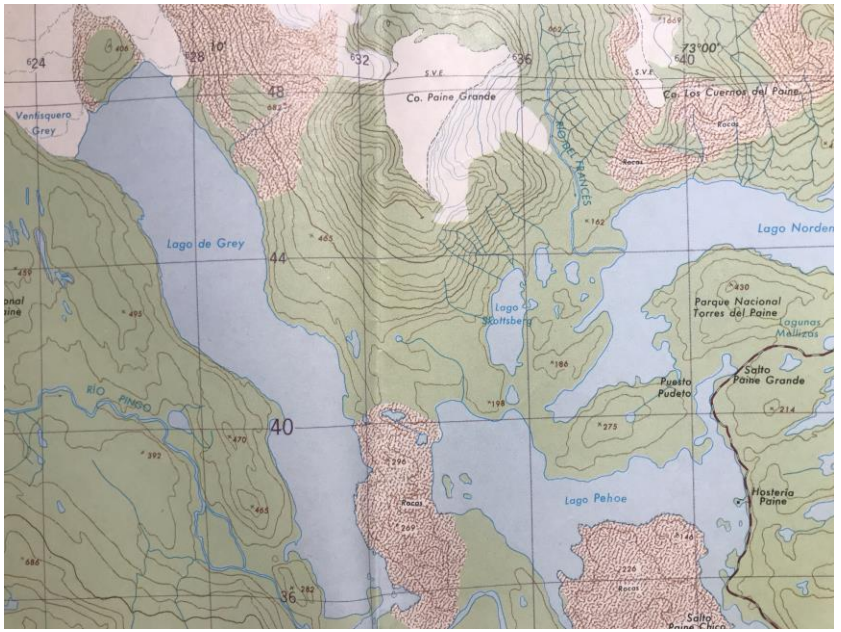
Food that you may purchase with some luck along the trail is described in chapter 1.8.16 Traditional Food and Drink on page 122.

For food that you may collect while hiking see chapter 1.8.17 Eatable Seeds, Fruits, and Plants on page 127.

When the planned route starts with several days of packrafting then the weight of the provisions is less relevant. In these cases we carry fresh fruits and vegetables and also some beer and wine. This applies in example to packrafting Rio Palena (GPT27P and GPT28P, approx. 180 km), the fjord packrafting route from Santo Domingo to Puerto Cisnes (GPT28P Option 3, 5 & 6, approx. 130 km), Rio Baker and Fiordo Mitchell (GPT36P, approx. 190 km), and the particular long water route from Rio Yelcho to Cochamo (GPT74P, GPT76, GPT77 and GPT78, approx. 345 km).

1.11.9 Maps and Navigation Devices

Only a small proportion of the GPT route network was made for hiking or prepared for hikers. Instead, the GPT is mostly composed out of existing routes that were made by the local inhabitants to serve their purposes. The trails and minor roads are primarily used to drive animals to summer pastures, to get to remote outposts or to extract wood from the forest. Long stretches of the trails are only vaguely visible, are indistinguishable from animal tracks that lead astray or peter out into nothing. Also, about 8% to 10% of the routes lead through cross-country terrain without a visible path. Therefore, the GPT network is of such variable quality and mostly lack trail markers and signposts. All this distinguishes the GPT from established long-distance trails and makes this route network so inconsistent and challenging to navigate.



Picture 140: IMG paper map of the Hiking Mecca *Torres del Paine* not showing trails. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.9.1 Paper Maps

The *Instituto Geográfico Militar* (IGM) issues topographic maps that cover whole of Chile (IGM maps, scale 1:50’000). Unfortunately, these maps are often outdated, do not show many of the horse trails[43] or the displayed trails are often not placed precisely. On the other hand, some maps show trails that are abandoned and completely overgrown by now. Therefore, these detailed topographic paper maps in best case supplement the navigation on the GPT but remain an insufficient guide.

[43] In example the IGM maps that cover Torres del Paine (the most popular hiking area of Chile) omit most trails. See Picture 140.

Also, the cost and the combined weight of IMG paper maps make “classic navigation” with maps unpractical for the GPT. 20 IGM paper maps cost more and add more weight to a backpack than a basic GPS handheld device with several batteries. And 20 IMG maps would not get you far on the GPT.

A range of other hiking maps show bits and pieces of the GPT but these maps are inconsistent, of variable quality and generally insufficient to lead you over major parts the GPT.[44]

The only reliable and most practical way to navigate on the GPT is therefore navigation with an electronic GPS device.

To plan and prepare a hike on the GPT I highly recommend the maps “*Mapa Turístico Chiletur Copec*” in the scale 1:400’000. This series of nine road maps covers all of Chile and parts of Argentina. For the GPT only the Map 4 to Map 9 are relevant. The scale makes these maps useless for navigation on the ground, but they provide a good over-view of the topography, the location of resupply towns, the road network and name



Picture 141: IMG paper map of the Hiking Mecca *Torres del Paine* not showing the trails. Image: Jan Dudeck

[44] The maps from TREKKINGCHILE.COM are comparable reliable but cover few more popular trails only. Should you stumble over the paper maps issued by “Pixmap” for the GPT then don’t buy them. The issuer used without consultation the first DRAFT track files published in 2014 on Wikiexplora. These early track files contained numerous unverified exploration suggestions. Since the publication of these first DRAFT track files I made countless updates and substantial corrections of the route network. All these updates and corrections are missing on the “Pixmap” paper maps.

rivers, lakes, mountains, and other geographic features. You can buy these maps in Chile or better online while you plan your adventure. When hiking we sometimes carry selected maps to show people on the trail what we are doing.

- Map 4 “Zona Central”: GPT01 to GPT03
- Map 5 “Maule y Bío Bío”: GPT03 to GPT14
- Map 6 “Villarrica, Llanquihue y Chiloé”: GPT14 to GPT27 & GPT70P to GTP78P
- Map 7 “Carretera Austral”: GPT27 to GPT37 and GPT80P to GPT92P
- Map 8 “Campos de Hielo y Torres del Paine”: GPT37 to GPT50
- Map 9 “Tierra del Fuego y Antártica”: GPT60 to GPT69





Picture 142: Recommended for planning: *Mapa Turístico Chiletur Copec*. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.9.2 OpenStreetMaps (OSM)



Picture 143: OSM Logo

All electronic navigation devices require digital maps to become useful aids to orientation. Without digital maps these devices are about as informative as a blank sheet of paper. Until recently this mapping information was owned and controlled by governments and private enterprises that charged for using this data. This changed in 2004 when Steve Coast founded the OpenStreetMap project (OSM).

OSM is a collaborative project to create a free editable map of the world and was inspired by the success of Wikipedia. The creation and growth of OSM has been motivated by restrictions on use or availability of map data across much of the world. The geodata is the primary output of the project. In many parts of the world the quality of OSM map data now exceeds proprietary map data[45]. The data from OSM can be used free-of-charge in various ways including the creation of electronic maps. For more information read the Wikipedia article to OpenStreetMaps.

OSM is based on the same principal as Wikipedia: countless contributors share their expertise to complement and correct each other. This consolidates countless bits of knowledge into a single source of public information with a high degree of fidelity where the expertise of many contributors overlaps. But on the “edges” the level of detail and the accuracy get uneven and reflects the special interests of the fewer contributors.

The currently best digital maps of Chile and Argentina for handheld GPS devices and smartphone navigation apps are based on

[45] For Chile the free-of-charge maps that are based on OSM data are noticeably than the costly “Garmin TOPO Deluxe” map that costs 80 USD.

OSM map data. These maps are generally free-of-charge[46].

The following map features are of generally good quality on OSM maps for Chile and Argentina:

- Roads
- City and town maps
- Topographic profile
- Water bodies like rivers, lakes, and coastlines

The following map features are incomplete or not well charted on OSM maps for Chile and Argentina:

- Trails and suitable cross-country routes[47]
- Remote infrastructure like bridges, refuges and remotely living settlers
- Hiking relevant information like water sources and suitable campsites
- Suitable packrafting water routes including water entry and exit points
- Geographic names

These gaps make it necessary to obtain the GPT track files to complement these generally good OSM maps with the GPT route network and waypoint information.

[46] Some Apps charge for loading certain map features these fees are reasonable low and rather pay for the App than for the actual map data.
[47] The general concept of OSM makes it debatable if cross-country routes should be charted or not because OSM intends to map only permanent geographic features.

1.11.9.3 Satellite Images



Picture 144: Satellite image showing a clearly visible trail and a settler's home. Image: Google Earth

Satellite images have been instrumental in inspiring and creating the GPT. On high-resolution satellite images a trained eye can spot trails that traverse open terrain. Only where these trails enter dense forests and disappear under the treetops route planning becomes guesswork. This permits mapping most trails of the GPT first on satellite images before ground-truthing them by searching the "missing-links" between visually verified trail segments. Without access to high-resolution satellite images such explorations are not impossible but much more time-consuming and reliant on finding local guides. I have spoken to hikers that investigated in the 80s and 90s smaller areas of what is now the GPT and I can envision the much greater challenge of pursuing a similar objective but without today's technology. It is mind-blowing that an ordinary hiker now has access to this wealth of information and this free-of-charge[48]. Not using it seems silly to me.

[48] You pay consciously or unconsciously with your personal data for this access. Generally speaking: if a costly product or service is free, then you are the product that is being sold (or at least your attention is sold to advertisers later on).

I use primarily Google Earth to plan and document the GPT and I encourage all prospective hikers to study the GPT in Google Earth thoroughly before venturing on this route network. It's a brilliant tool to virtually hike the GPT to make a pre-selection of sections and options. The GPT track files contain a KMZ file to display the entire route network with all waypoints in Google Earth.

When hiking on verified routes access to high-resolution satellite images is not required but might be beneficial to anticipate the terrain and to select possible camp sites. In contrast, when investigating unverified routes than offline access to high-resolution satellite images is highly recommended. Therefore, all GPT hikers should get setup to download satellite images of selected areas to their smartphones and learn how to read such imagery.

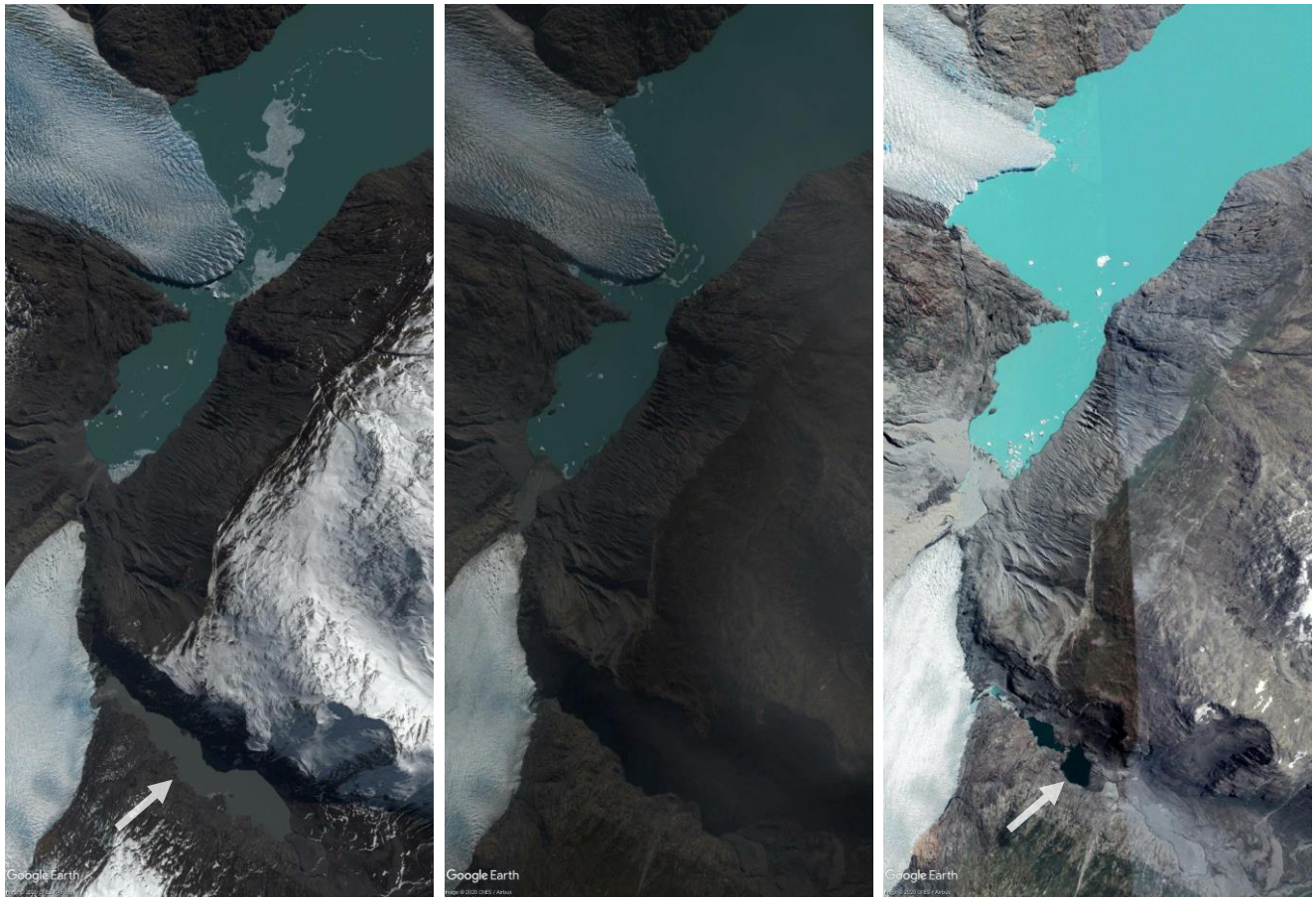
There are currently three sources of satellite images that hikers should know and use: Google Earth, Bing Satellite Maps and Sentinel-2 satellite images.

Google Earth image quality: High-resolution images with a resolution down to 50 cm are provided for most densely populated areas. This resolution permit identifying small features like trails and individual cars. In sparsely inhabited regions like Patagonia the image quality is less consistent. Many parts of Patagonia have a similar good coverage with high-resolution images but patches with a noticeably lower resolution are evident when zooming in. In areas with a lower resolution trails are invisible, but the general nature of the landscape remains often identifiable. Compared to Microsoft Bing images (more to this later) the colors in Google Earth are more natural but especially in mountainous regions some areas are blacked out by dark mountain shadows.

Google Earth desktop software: This is a powerful program with numerous useful features. Tracks and waypoints can be created, modified, and managed making it the best platform to plan a trip on the GPT from home. The 3D terrain view is brilliant to analyze

the route network in mountainous terrain. Another useful feature is the history timeline bar. After clicking on the year button in the left bottom corner a timeline bar pops up and users can slide through all available images that sometimes cover a period of one or two decades.

Google Earth smartphone app: The GPT track files can be loaded into the app but tracks and waypoints can not be managed individually. The app also provides 3D terrain view what is very helpful when reviewing a section during a resupply town stop just before departing to the trail. Unfortunately, satellite images cannot be downloaded to review them offline and only low-resolution images remain in the cash. This greatly limits the functionally when using the Google Earth app offline. But the plain satellite imagery without the topographic overlay can be downloaded in example by the Locus Maps app.



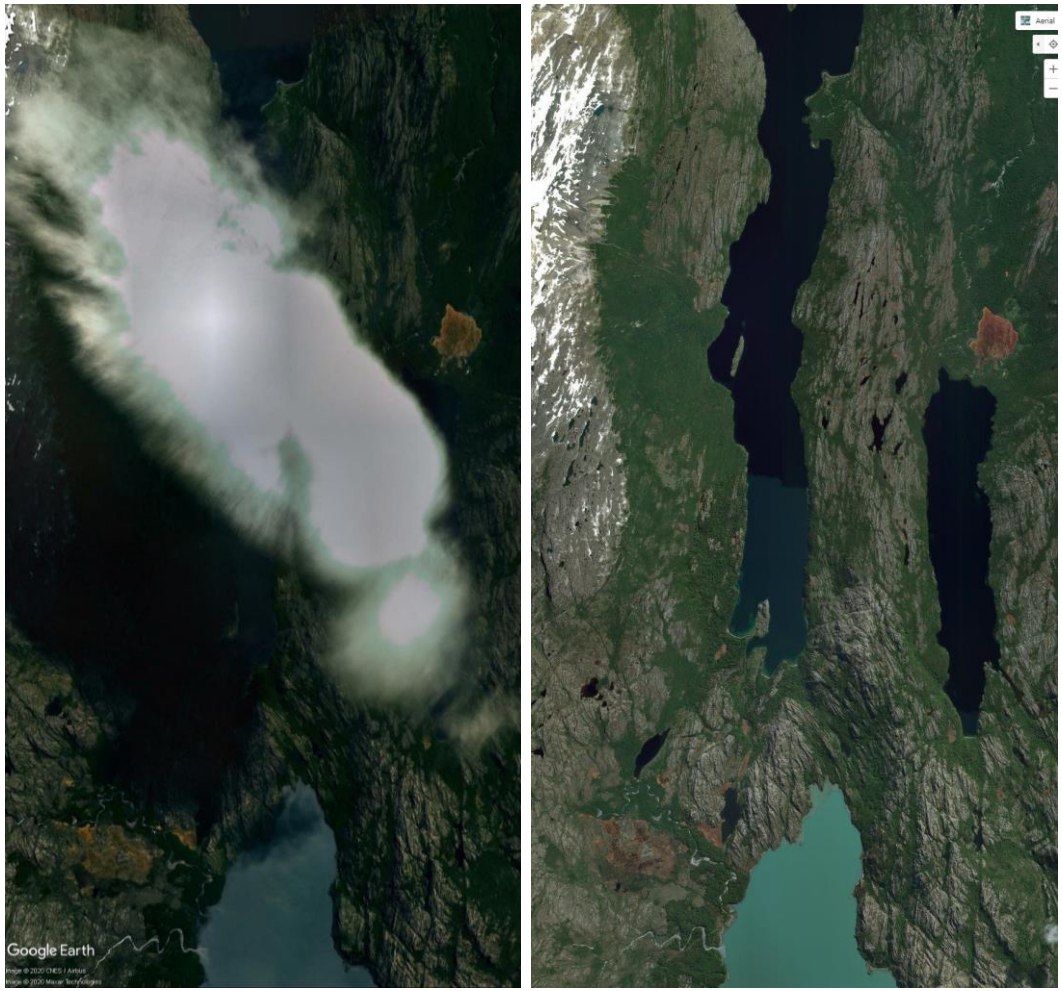
Picture 145, 146 and 147: Google Earth images showing the same area of section GPT38 in September 2013, April 2016 and January 2019. Note the retreating glacier O'Higgins, the drained lake (see arrow), the variable snow cover and different lighting and shadows.



Picture 148, 149, 150 and 151: Google Earth history from 2011 to 2019 showing how vegetation overgrows trails and buildings on GPT90P.

Microsoft Bing Maps image quality: The satellite images with the consistently highest resolution are provided by Bing Maps with a minimum resolution of 50 cm even in rural regions. This favors Bing when analyzing specific areas in detail for trails and feasible cross-country routes in open landscapes to circumvent cliffs and other obstacles. Unfortunately, the color processing in regions with vegetation cover compromises the image quality resulting in a somewhat blurred appearance. To extract the most information from satellite images it is often useful to compare both; the Google Earth and Bing Maps imagery; as sometimes one region or feature is captured very nicely by one provider and can't be seen by the other due to bad lighting, shadows, cloud cover, snow condition or poor automatic image processing.

Microsoft Bing Maps image can be viewed in any internet browser www.bing.com/maps and several smartphone navigation apps utilize these satellite images in example the Locus Maps app and ViewRanger. Some of these apps permit downloading these satellite images or storing large amounts of high-resolution images in the smartphone cache memory.



Picture 152 (left): Google Earth image of GPT36H in poor quality.
Picture 153 (right): Microsoft Bing image of same area in good quality.

Sentinel-2 images quality: The images are more coarse with a 10 meters resolution but new images become available every 2 to 3 days whereas Google Earth and Bing images can be several years old. This is excellent to assess the current snow cover along a route. These satellite image are only available online via an browser https://apps.sentinel-hub.com/sentinel-playground/ .

Images to be added.

1.11.9.4 Primary Navigation Device: Handheld GPS



Picture 154: Recommended Garmin eTrex30 and GPSMAP66i. Image: www.gamin.com

As the primary navigation device for the GPT I strongly recommend a button operated Garmin Handheld GPS device with a Micro-SD card slot for a multitude of reasons.

Before I'm getting into detail I want to make one thing very clear: I'm not getting sponsored by Garmin and I'm not a fan of Garmin. The Garmin TOPO maps for Chile and Argentina are poor. The Garmin firmware is neither intuitive nor very stable. The artificially build-in limits for tracks and waypoints impede using the common GPX file format to load the GPT track files on a Garmin handheld. Garmin GPS devices also do not support Google Earth KMZ files. To work around these limitations, I had to learn how to process the GPT track files into a Garmin readable IMG map file which is a nauseating complicated ordeal. My list of complaints is longer, and Garmin does not listen.

The reason I still use and recommend Garmin GPS devices is the lack of a better alternative; at least I have not found something more suitable. I am not fond of using a smartphone as primary navigation device: it's too fragile to be constantly exposed, when wet the touch screen blocks up, the power consumption is generally higher while continuously recording and setting up the entire GPT route network in a navigation app is anything but trivial. Therefore, I kept hiking with Garmin handheld devices[49] and use a smartphone as backup navigation device, to review satellite images and for route planning. So, me and my Garmin devices are

[49] To be specific: From 2013 to 2018 I used the GPSmap62s, in the season 2018/2019 a eTrex30x and in 2019/2020 the GPSmap66i that combines GPS navigation with a satellite pager in one hand held device.

not best friends but colleagues with a well-functioning work-relationship. We now known each other for years and found a way to work around the other's tics.

A GPS handheld device is reasonable waterproof and robust. The plastic casing of my 5-year-old GPSMAP62 device looks pretty worn but it still works as on day one and the screen has no cracks or annoying scratches. And this after carrying it about 5'000 km always exposed on my backpack shoulder straps or on my PFD when packrafting (PFD: personal flotation device). A smartphone would certainly not have survived such a 5-year ordeal.

In rain a button-controlled handheld GPS works perfectly fine. In contrast, a touchscreen-controlled smartphone or GPS blocks up when wet. This means in deteriorating weather or when packrafting a smartphone becomes difficult to use and these are circum-stances in which quick and frequent location verifications are essential.

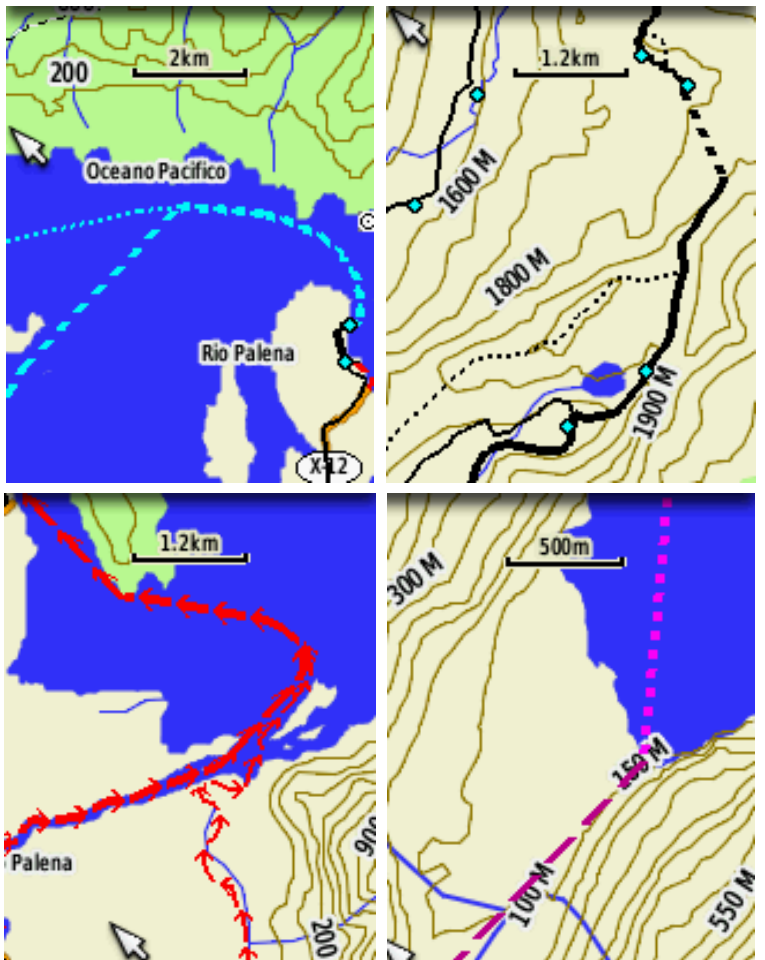
A handheld GPS is designed for one job only: GPS navigation. This permits optimizing all components for this function. Therefore, the processor and the screen of a handheld GPS consume substantially less power than these components of a much more capable smartphone. The transflective screen of a handheld GPS is clearly readable in bright sunlight and does not require a power-hungry backlight like a smartphone. The screen backlight of a handheld GPS must only be activated when dark. This results in a noticeably longer and more predictable battery life of a handheld GPS. A smartphone battery quickly depletes when energy intensive functions are used, or when settings are inappropriate (airplane mode deactivated, filming, image processing).

A handheld GPS or smartphone by itself is insufficient for navigation. It needs a navigation devise with the GPT track files and topographic maps correctly installed. And this is easier described and done on a Garmin handheld GPS.

To my knowledge, only Garmin handheld devices display the IMG map files correctly. These are the digital maps, that I update annually and publish at the start of each hiking season.

These maps display all relevant track information with the line colour and the line type. One look at the GPS screen makes instantly clear what is a regular route (thick line) and what is an optional route (thin line). The line types are different for actual trails (solid line), approximate cross-country routes (dotted line) and routes that are not investigated and confirmed yet (dashed line). This tells the hiker instantly where he better seeks and follows a sometimes vaguely visible trail or where the track is anyway only a rough direction indication. Unverified exploration routes have a distinct colour (violet) to prevent a confusion with the verified routes (black or red). A clearly visible difference is also made between ferry routes (light blue) and packrafting routes (red). And packrafters can instantly recognize the flow direction of rivers because one-way water routes are chains of arrows.

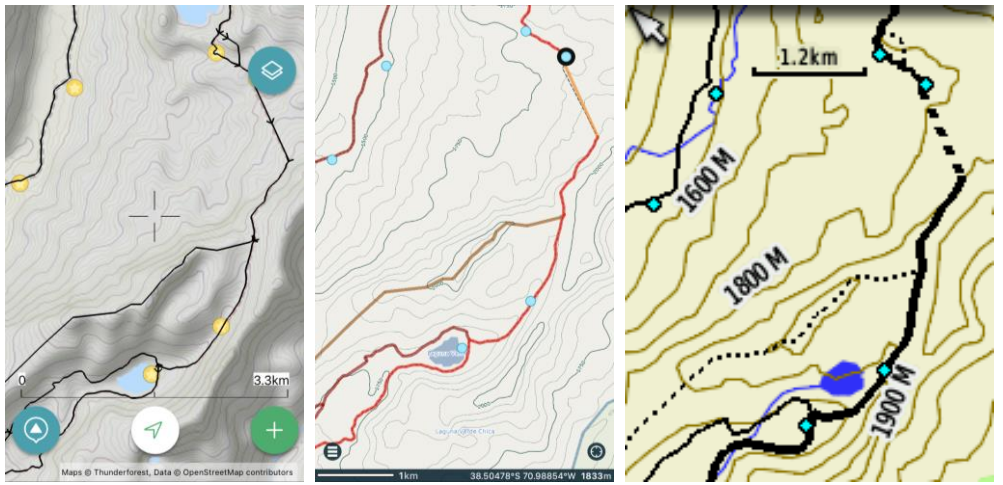
And the best thing is: to install these maps on a Garmin GPS the required IMG files must just be copied on a Micro-SD card in a folder named “Garmin”. After inserting the storage card into the GPS and starting the devise it automatically scans the Micro-SD card and loads the GPT map files with all tracks and waypoints. I have not found yet a smartphone App that displays these IGM map files correctly.



Picture 155: Garmin handheld GPS display of GPT track file (IMG map file). Image: Jan Dudeck

Setting up a smartphone to display the same information with a variety of line colours and line types is more complicated[50]. And when all 28’000 km of GPT tracks network are displayed equally than the route display becomes disorienting.

To obtain the GPT track files, hikers must commit to provide a full GPS record of their hike to the creator of the GPT. This is essential to keep the documentation of this informal route network updated. See chapter **Error! Reference source not found.** Provide Feedback on page 314 to this condition. Therefore, the navigation devices, batteries and rechargers must be selected to keep the primary navigation GPS continuously recording while hiking.



Picture 156: Comparison of smartphone navigation app display with Garmin handheld GPS display.

Left: ViewRanger
Middle: PocketEarth (colour can be selected when importing tracks)
Right: Garmin handheld GPS display of IMG map file

With the recommended Garmin handheld GPS the recording does not require significant additional power due to the low standby power consumption of a handheld GPS. But recording with a smartphone is often more power intensive therefore hikers that attempted the GPT with a smartphone rarely provided their GPS record as promised. Please, do not become such a free rider that exploits the hikers’ community by utilizing their work without giving back in return.

[50] Most navigation apps support different track colours but this may require selecting and editing each track segment individually. With more than 3000 track segments this is not a practical method for the GPT track file. An exception is Locus Maps that supports different line types like dotted and dashed lines.

The primary limitation of a Garmin handheld GPS is the lack of high-resolution satellite images of large areas. Garmin's BirdsEye feature permits downloading and displaying satellite images, but the low-resolution screen and the build-in limitations make this feature inferior when compared to the capabilities of smartphones. After using satellite images for 10 years I don't want to go back and rely on topographic maps only.

Also, a single handheld GPS device would not provide the necessary backup in case of failure, damage, or loss. Therefore, each hiker or group of hikers should carry at least two navigation devices that are both fully prepared with the track files and maps loaded. Also, hikers should be familiar with using both devices for navigation.

To summarize, here my list of my essential criteria for choosing my navigation devices:

- **Robust** and water-resistant design with an impact resistant display that does not crack easily
- **Button-operated** and not touchscreen-controlled
- A **good screen visibility** in bright sunlight and darkness
- **Low power consumption** also in stand-mode while continuously recording the actually walked route
- **Easy installation of the GPT track files** and correct display of different categories of tracks and waypoints
- A **primary and backup navigation device** in case one device fails, breaks or gets lost
- Display and navigation with high-resolution **satellite images**

Additional nice-to-have features and functions are:

- Preferably changeable batteries instead of a build-in battery
- A high-resolution screen for studying the route network while planning and preparing the next sections
- Integrated satellite communication

The combination that best matches these criteria is a **Garmin handheld GPS device and a correctly setup smartphone**[51] that serves as backup and for consulting satellite images offline on the trail.

Add image of and handheld GPS and smartphone.

[51] If a smartphone is used as backup navigation device than it is less relevant that the tracks are as nicely displayed as on the Garmin handheld navigation device. What matter for a backup devise is that all tracks are displayed on a suitable topographic map to navigate out of a remote area and reach village or primary road.

1.11.9.5 Backup Navigation Device: Smartphones

The rapid technical development of smartphone hardware and software made these devices suitable for navigation and replaced handheld GPS devices to a large degree[52]. And practically all hikers already have a smartphone and carry it when hiking. Therefore, it is prudent to **setup the smartphone for navigation on the GPT to backup and complement the handheld GPS**.

Setting up a suitable smartphone as outdoor navigator requires installing navigation apps, downloading topographic maps and satellite images and installing the track files. A highly praised app is Locus Maps that is currently only available for Android and to which this manual provides a step-by-step instruction in the Appendix. Locus Maps permits overlaying topographic maps with satellite images and the display of the track file can be fine-tuned better than with most other navigation apps. See chapter **Error! Reference source not found.** Backup Navigation Device: Smartphone on page 1027 and 3.2 Software: Smartphone Apps on page 1070 to this topic.

A smartphone is also ideal for route planning in example when resupplying in a town or while resting in the tent. For this the high-resolution touchscreen with the convenient two-finger-zoom function is a blessing as large areas can be analysed nicely.

A small number of hikers managed well with two smartphones for navigation and did not deploy a Garmin handheld GPS device on the GPT. These hikers had substantial pre-experience with smartphones navigation apps and habitually used smartphones for navigation when hiking. This practice taught them how to minimize the smartphone power consumption. They were also armed

[52] A smartphone is fully sufficient for navigation on shorter hikes or when travelling well-established and clearly signposted trails where keeping the navigation device in standby is not required. A long-distance hike on a demanding and complex trail network like the GPT is one of the few remaining niches in which a handheld GPS device is of advantage.

with excellent IT skills and willing to invest some time to process the GPT track files into a user-friendly navigation app display.

Therefore, I'm not claiming that a Garmin handheld GPS is a must-have-item on the GPT but I'm confident that combining a Garmin handheld GPS with a smartphone is the best option for the majority of hikers especially those that start using GPS navigation. So far, there was not a single GPT hiker with a handheld GPS that in hindsight regretted this choice and that felt that the Garmin handheld GPS is better replaced by a second smartphone.

1.11.9.6 Selection of Navigation Devises

The Garmin handheld GPS should come with a Micro-SD card slot to load the GPT track files and the topographic maps from a removable storage. The simplest Garmin handheld[53] has just a small internal store and is therefore not recommended. If you look for a basic handheld GPS, I suggest the Garmin eTrex22x or eTrex32x[54]. They are small, lightweight, robust and have all required navigation functions combined with a low power consumption. I strongly recommend a button-operated device without touch-screen to navigate with an all-weather-proof device. A touch screen also reduces the battery life.

Another brilliant option is the Garmin GPSMAP66i that combines a button operated GPS with an InReach satellite communicator in one single device. The lack of mobile phone coverage makes a satellite communicator an essential safety item. Therefore, I recommend either a InReach Mini or a Garmin GPSMAP 66i for satellite emergency communication. For more to this topic see the next chapter 1.11.10 Communication Devices on page 236 and chapter 3.1.6 Satellite Communication Device starting on page

[53] The eTrex10 has no Micro-SD card slot.
[54] The eTrex22x or eTrex32x are the successors of the eTrex20x or eTrex30x. All four devices are equally suitable for the GPT. The 30x and 32x are equipped with a barometric altimeter and an electronic compass what is useful but not essential if carrying a classic compass. The 20x and 22x are without altimeter and compass and therefore slightly cheaper.

1034 in the Appendix. These considerations result in the following navigation and communication device options:

	Option 1	Option 2	Not generally recommended alternative
Primary GPS Navigation Device	Garmin eTrex22x or Garmin eTrex32x	Garmin GPSMAP66i with satellite communication	Smartphone with multiple navigation Apps
Backup GPS Navigation Device	Smartphone with multiple navigation Apps	Smartphone with multiple navigation Apps	Second backup smartphone with multiple navigation Apps
Satellite Communication Device	InReach Mini	-	InReach Mini
Device weight	Handheld GPS: 150 g Smartphone: Approx. 250 g InReach Mini: 100 g Combined weight: Approx. 500 g	Handheld GPS: 250 g Smartphone: Approx. 250 g Combined weight: Approx. 500 g	Smartphone: Approx. 2 x 250 g InReach Mini: 100 g Combined weight: Approx. 600 g
Power Consumption of Primary Navigation Device per day	Garmin eTrex: 2 Wh Two AA alkaline batteries power 3 to 4 days of navigation	Garmin GPSMAP66i: 1 to 2 Wh Build-in 11.5 Wh battery enough for 6 to 10 days of navigation	Smartphone: 4 to 8 Wh Build-in battery normally lasts for 2 to 3 days of navigation

Table 8: In 2021 recommended primary and backup navigation devices

Neither of the three options has a distinct weight benefit also when including batteries and power banks for recharging. Therefore, if you already have some of the recommended devices, use them and just complement your equipment with what is missing.

Once you have your two navigation devices work through the first three chapters of the Appendix. There I describe step-by-step how to setup a Garmin handheld GPS, what smartphone apps and topographic are recommended, how to obtain the GPT track files, how to install them and how to decipher the GPT track file nomenclature.

These three chapters in the Appendix are:

- 3.1 Hardware: Navigation Devices and Other Gadgets on page 1010
- 3.2 Software: Smartphone Apps on page 1070
- 3.3 Navigation Data: Maps and GPT Track File on page 1086

1.11.10 Communication Devices

Mobile phone coverage along the GPT is very limited. Be prepared to remain offline between resupply town stops even if you occasionally cross areas with some coverage on some sections. If you feel a strong urge to reconnect with the outside world from the trail in between towns ask locals along the way. They normally know these spots *con señal* (mobile phone signal) if there are any. These locations sometimes even have nick names in example on GPT23 the *“Filocutorio”* that can be translated as “Phone Box Ridge”.

This limited coverage makes the GPT an unsuitable terrain for social media hikers that can’t walk without instantly telling others about it. Think twice before venturing onto the GPT if your mind constantly seeks selfie backgrounds or phrases for the next Twitter post for instant sharing. If you are afraid of losing followers by not posting daily, then the GPT is scary terrain. It’s a route network that favours the quiet and patient hikers that prefer to experience and listen first before speaking up to others.

1.11.10.1 Satellite Communication

The lack of mobile phone coverage and the remoteness of many routes makes a satellite communication device an essential safety item. If an accident disables you from walking, then you can ask for rescue even if this may take days and not hours. I do not recommend satellite phones as they are expensive, heavy, and power hungry. A better choice are satellite pagers to send and receive short text messages and submit a distress signal in case of an emergency.

Two highly recommended devices are:

- GPSMAP66i which combines satellite communication with a handheld GPS in one device
- Garmin InReach Mini which is the lightest and smallest suitable satellite communication device

Alternatively, the following two devices may be used:

- Garmin InReach SE+
- Garmin InReach Explorer+

These devices can be used individually but especially for sending messages it is more convenient to link the satellite via Bluetooth to a smartphone and type messages in the corresponding Garmin apps (Garmin Explore, Garmin Connect, Garmin Earthmate).

Activate and test these devices properly before heading to the GPT. For more information on this potentially life-saving subject read the Appendix chapter 3.1.6 Satellite Communication Device starting on page 1034.

1.11.10.2 For more information on this potentially life-saving subject read the Appendix chapter Mobile Phones

To set up your mobile phone for use in Chile and Argentina you may consider purchasing a local SIM cards in these countries. But if you plan using a SIM card purchased in Chile you must register your “imported” mobile phone first. Without registering your “foreign” mobile phone it will get blocked after 30 days. This regulation is intended to substantially reduce the 400’000 phones stolen every year in Chile. While still at home read carefully www.prepaid-data-sim-card.fandom.com/wiki/Chile for more information. For the registration of your mobile phone you need:

- Scan of passport or ID document
- Manufacturer and model of your mobile phone
- A photograph of the 15-digit IMEI number of your mobile phone

This doesn't apply to roaming SIM cards in Chile (basically “foreign” phone with a “foreign” SIM card with rooming in Chile).

1.11.11 Power Supply

To keep your navigation, communication and other electronics powered up you need a carefully planned power supply strategy that matches your electronic equipment, using habits, your hiking pace and the sections that you plan to hike. To choose your recharge strategy you either need to know the power consumption of your devices or test it before you depart.

Two aspects are essential: Sufficient **quantity** and appropriate **reliability** for all electric devices that may need to be recharged.

- Enough recharge power (combined power bank size) and/or sufficient spare batteries (if i.e. using AA batteries)
- Relying on solar panels only on the northern part of the GPT (sections GPT01 to approx. GPT15)
- Backup i.e. two smaller power banks instead of one larger power bank in case one device fails
- Backup cable in case one cable fails or gets lost

Other optimizations are: If using a Garmin GPS with AA batteries (eTrex20 or eTrex30) get a headlight that also runs on AA batteries. But if using navigation devices with build-in batteries that are recharged via an USB plug (GPSMAP 66i and/or smartphone) then consider using a headlight that is also recharged via an USB plug or that runs on rechargeable 18650 lithium batteries that can be used as an emergency power bank with the appropriate charger/discharger cable.

In chapter 3.1.7 Batteries and Electrical Power Supply starting on page 1036 I discuss in great detail several options but I do not provide a “must-have-gear-list”. Test and choose wisely what fits your individual requirements.

1.11.12 First Air Gear, Repair Material and Tools (To be issued)

Machete

To be issued.

1.11.13 Packrafting Gear and Best Practices

In this chapter I discuss different packrafting gear options with their benefits and disadvantages, and I summarize some of our lessons learned while paddling an estimated 3’000 km on rivers, lakes and fjords in Patagonia.



Picture 157: Packrafting Rio Baker with friends. Image: Jan Dudeck

The following experiences and equipment forged our opinion:

We started packrafting in 2013 with NO pre-experience or training. In hindsight, this is something I strongly recommend NOT doing!

In the first years we did not venture on larger lakes or high-volume rivers and never paddled in white-water. We gradually increased the challenges, improved our gear and ventured better equipped on larger lakes, into the fjords and on high-volume rivers. We highly appreciated the few packrafting trips with more experienced friends on which we improved our paddling skills on rivers with rapids up to class 2.

We packrafted with the following two models:

- Alpacka Explorer 42 purchased in 2013 and
- MRS Barracuda R2 Pro purchased in 2018.

We purchased both boats from www.packrafting-store.de where we also sourced most of our packrafting gear like paddles, dry suits and multiple accessories.

We never received promotional free items or discounts and we do not seek sponsors. Therefore, this review is not biased by financial interests.

I lover to tinker and my mom is a passionate tailor so we experimented with modifying, improving, and making our own gear.

I work in the power generation industry in which work safety is paramount. This mindset of preventing harmful situations and accident shapes also our attitude when adventuring.



Picture 158: Our initial packrafting gear in 2013: An Alpacka Explorer 42 with canoe paddles at Lago Neltume on GPT17P. Image: Jan Dudeck

We are not weight sensible and willing to carry some extra gear for added safety and comfort.

1.11.13.1 Packraft Manufacturers

When we bought our first packraft in 2013, packrafting was still a rather small niche with one dominating manufacturer: Alpacka. Meanwhile, additional suppliers entered the market and expanded the range of available models. Below a list of packraft manufacturers in alphabetic order:



Picture 159: Our packrafting gear in 2019: A MRS Barracuda R2 Pro with two kayak paddles in the fjord Puyuhuapi on GPT30P. Image: Jan Dudeck

- Aire (USA): www.aire.com
- Alpacka (USA): www.alpackaraft.com
- Anfibio (Germany): www.packrafting-store.de
- Birdypackraft (Russia): www.birdypackraft.com
- Decathlon (China): www.decathlon.com
- DostepRaft (Argentina): www.dostep.com.ar
- Frontier (China): www.frontiergears.com
- Koaro (New Zealand): www.koaropackrafts.com
- Kokopelli (USA): www.kokopellipackraft.com
- Mekong (France): www.mekongpackraft.com
- MRS Micro Rafting System (China): No informative manufacturer homepage. Sold e.g. by www.packrafting-store.de
- Nortik (Russia): No informative manufacturer homepage. Sold e.g. by www.packrafting-store.de
- NRS (USA): www.nrs.com

- Timetrial (Russia): www.timetrial.ru

1.11.13.2 Making Your Own Packraft

Interestingly, despite the growing competition prices remain high. This reflects the demanding manufacturing process that requires many hours of skilled manual work for each handcrafted packraft. Therefore, who really needs to cut down on cost should consider a DIY packraft (DYI: "**D**o **I**t **Y**ourself"). At least two small companies offer now sets with pre-cut material that skilled tinkerers can iron (heat weld) into home-build packrafts. But this will take around 40 hours of fiddling with trial and error to get all seems airtight. If you consider building your own packraft, read first the experience report of Michael Deckebach, who travelled with Kara Davis good parts of the GPT in such home-made packrafts: www.michaeldeckebach.com/blog/diy-packraft-review.



Picture 160: DIY Packraft in the making. Image: Michael Deckebach

DIY packraft providers:

- DIY Packraft (Canada): www.diypackraft.com
- Iron Raft (UK): www.iron-raft.co.uk

1.11.13.3 Resellers

Also, the number of packrafting shops is growing with some resellers rebranding products under different names for local markets. This creates more choices but also more confusion. Now, selecting the optimal model for the best price requires expertise and a thorough market research.

Selected resellers in alphabetic order by home country:

- Austria (Alpacka only): www.packrafteurope.com
- Chile (Multiple brands): www.packraft.cl
- Chile (no packrafts but accessories): www.riverslakesoceans.com
- Finland (MRS only): www.melomo.fi
- Germany (Multiple brands): www.packrafting-store.de
- Norway (Alpacka only): www.packrafting.com
- Sweden (Multiple brands): www.packraft-sverige.com
- UK (Multiple brands): www.packraftadventure.co.uk

Further reading:

- American Packrafting Association: www.packraft.org
- Development of packraft market: www.winterbear.com/learn/packrafting/2002-2018-the-great-blow-up

1.11.13.4 Comparison of Manufacturers

We have an Alpacka packraft made in the US, and an MRS packraft made in China. The craftsmanship of both packrafts is excellent. Based on this experience and statements from other packrafters I would not expect substantial quality differences between established manufacturers.

We base our purchase decisions on:

- the packraft specification (type, seize, weight, features),
- the sellers support (e.g. consultation, shipping, warranty and return policy) and
- the final price including shipping and customs fees if shipped over customs borders (import duty and VAT).

We purchased the MRS Barracuda R2 Pro after happily packrafting for 5 seasons with the Alpacka Explorer 42 and this not because of wear or quality issues but because we desired a larger packraft with a spray deck to packraft the Patagonian fjords. Both packrafts are two-seaters with an internal storage system (TIZIP).

We purchased most of our packrafting gear at www.packrafting-store.de because the owners consulted us properly to make educated choices and this online shop managed shipments over customs borders reasonable well.

1.11.13.5 Single or Tandem Packraft

For solo packrafts the choice is rather obviously: a single packraft. But for a party of two (or more) a choice must be made between single packrafts or double packraft(s).

Some weight can be saved, and some speed can be gained by using a larger two-seater double packraft instead of two solo packrafts.

On the other hand, travelling with multiple packrafts adds some safety as one packrafter can assist other packrafters e.g. when one packraft starts leaking air or when one packrafter capsized in a rapid while the other is still in control of his boat. But in unfavorable conditions (e.g. strong wind or on fast moving water) this mutual assistance might simply not be possible therefore packrafters should not rely their packrafting partner as a primary safety element.

In the following I list the Pro's and Con's of single and double packrafts.



Picture 161: Packrafting Río Picacho with friends on GPT29P. Image: Jan Dudeck

Pro Tandem or Two-Seater Packrafts:

- Packrafting mainly on fjords and lakes where the paddling speed is more relevant.
- Weight sensible packrafters e.g. on routes with a comparable lower water proportion where minimizing weight matters.
- Packrafts in a close relationship that enjoying being cramped together in a tiny boat.
- Groups of two with a different degree of packrafting experience as one experienced packrafter can control a two-seater accompanied by a less experienced packrafter.



Picture 162: MRS Adventure X2 double or Two-Seater Packraft on Rio Baker on GPT36P. Image: Jan Dudeck

Pro Solo or Single Packrafts:

- Packrafting mainly on rivers where paddle speed is less relevant and where mutual assistance is more likely needed.
- Solo packrafts are generally preferred for white-water as this eliminate the necessity to coordinate two paddles where decisions must be taken in split-seconds.
- Using DIY packrafts that are more prone to developing air leaks on the water (two singles provide backup and mutual support in case of an emergency).
- Enjoying personal space and individual freedom.
- Groups of well-experienced packrafters that all prefer to control their own packraft.



Picture 163: DIY Solo or Single Packraft on Río Ibañez on GPT33P.
Image: Kara Davis

It is self-evident that travelling with a single packraft is hazardous (alone in solo packraft or two persons in one double-packraft). When opting for travelling with one packraft only, extra precaution should be applied to reduce the likelihood of accidents by in example porting moderate rapids even if they appear navigable, depart only in suitable and stable weather conditions, be trained and prepared for self-rescue and depart only with emergency communication and a rescue plan.

1.11.13.6 Open Packraft, Decked Boats or Self-Bailer

There are three types of packrafts: open packrafts, decked packrafts (with a spray deck), and self-bailers. No type is best, and each has its ideal application.

An **open packraft** is the packraft prototype: it's simple and light. On calm water this type performs excellent. Also longer waves don't pose a significant problem as such waves gently lift and lower the entire packraft without filling it with water. But breaking waves can quickly fill an open packraft with water. This does not sink a packraft but the added weight of the water in the boat makes the packraft hard to move and difficult to control.

A **decked packraft** incorporates a spray deck preventing that waves fill the boat with water. A spray deck also shields against cold and rain. To allow easy entry and exit the spray deck incorporates a solid ring (coaming) over which the spray skirt with the rubber band is attached. This creates a sufficient seal but permits an instant exit by simply pulling of the spray skirt off the coaming. The opening in the spay deck is typically large



Picture 164: Paddling Rio Baker on GPT36P with two open (blue) and one decked packraft (black). Image: Jan Dudeck

enough that without the spray skirt deployed a packraft with a spray deck feels pretty much like an open packraft. Therefore, I don’t see much benefit in a removable spray deck but would recommend a permanently installed spay deck if going for this option. Such a permanently installed spray deck seals better and adds stability to the boat.

A self-bailer packraft has an inflatable floor and drainage holes in the floor to constantly drain water out of the packraft. This is beneficial in white water but provides no protection against cold and wet weather. Since the GPT network avoids white water routes but guides through cold, humid regions I see no scenario in which a self-bailer is a preferable option for the GPT.

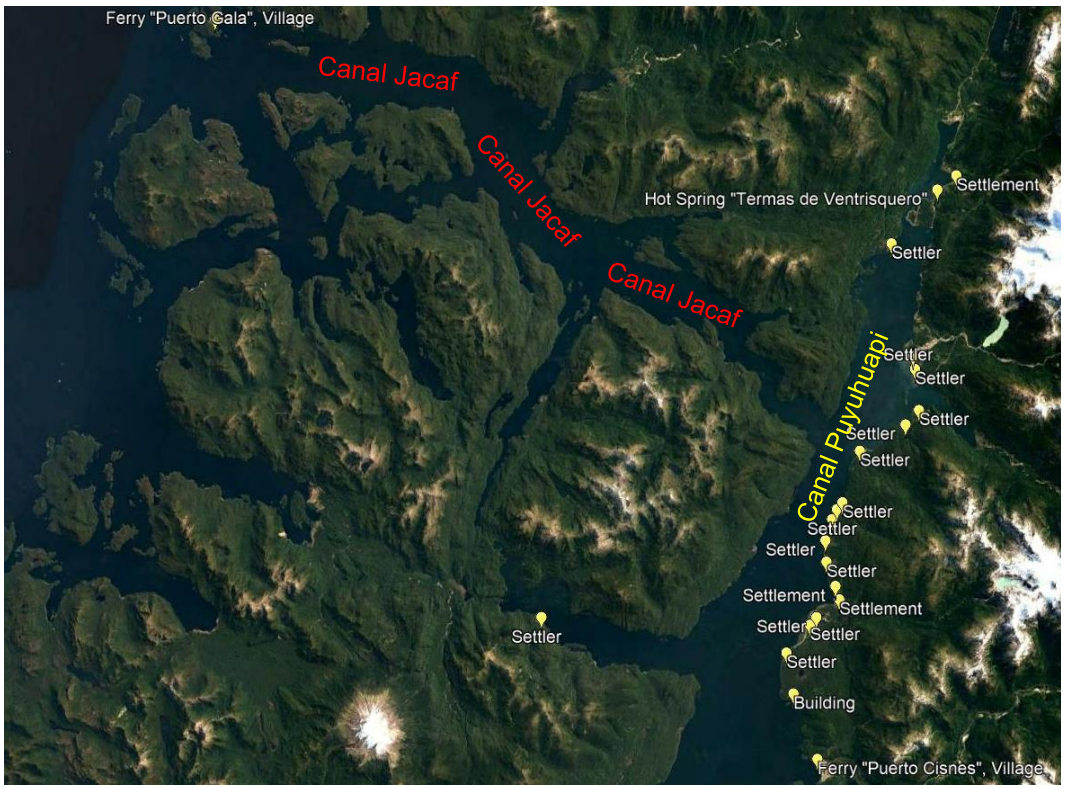
Pro Open Packrafts:

- Weight sensible packrafters e.g. on routes with a significant hiking proportion where weight matters more.
- Packrafting on calm rivers, lakes and fjords with plenty of exit options and nearby hiking routes in case of wind and waves.

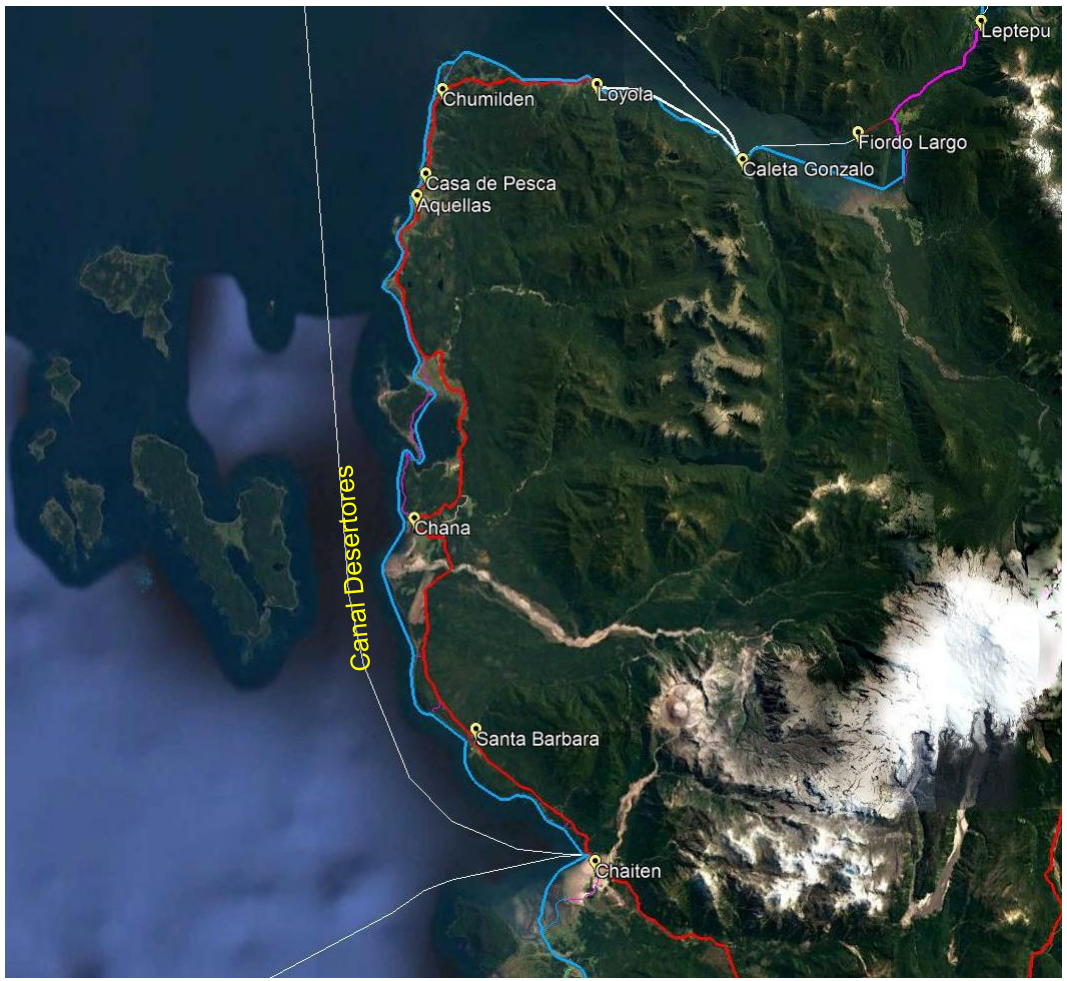
Pro Decked Packrafts:

- Packrafting in remote fjords and on large wind-exposed lakes where the protection against waves is essential.
- Packrafting in cold, rainy regions e.g. the south-west of Patagonia (Chilean fjords south of Puerto Montt).
- Packrafting routes with a low hiking proportion where the additional weight of a heavier packraft is less relevant.
- Packrafting in white-water (generally not applicable to the GPT water routes).

GPT76 (Chaiten to Leptepu) and GPT30P (Puerto Cisnes to Puyuhuapi) are generally feasible for open packrafts. In contrast, Canal Jacaf should only be attempted with a decked packraft.



Picture 165: GPT28P and GPT30P with remote Canal Jacaf and more populated Canal Puyuhuapi. Image: Google Earth



Picture 166: GPT76 fjord route with plenty of exit options and a nearby hiking route. This route is suitable for open packrafts. Image: Google Earth

1.11.13.7 Internal Storage or Not

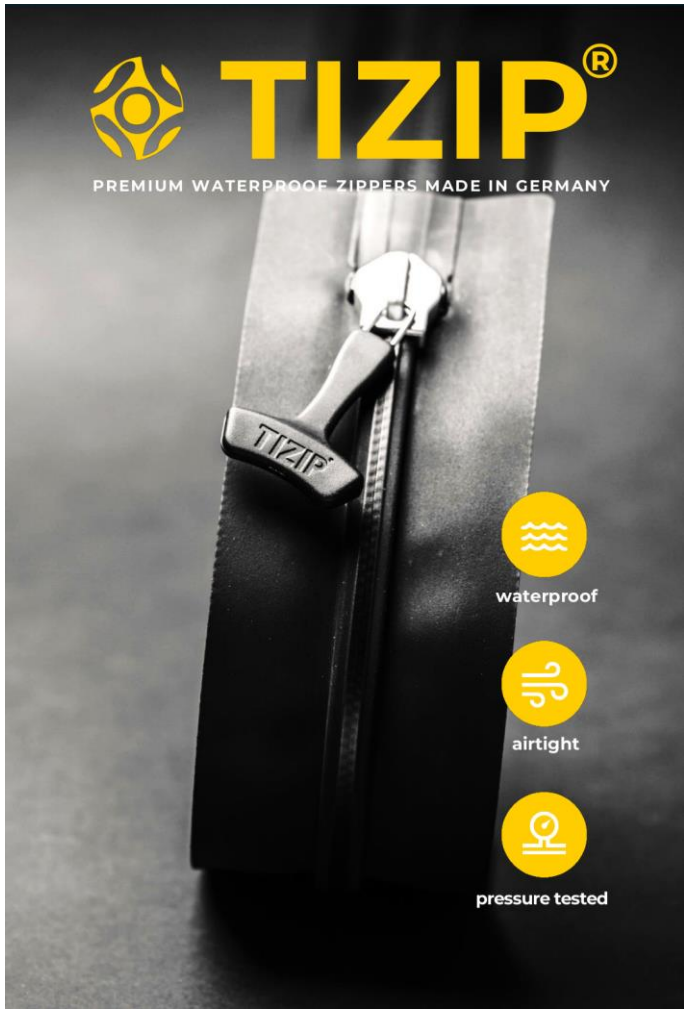
The German TiZip company developed watertight and airtight zippers, that are now incorporated in some packrafts to store gear directly in the air chamber. This internal storage is perfectly dry, lowers the center of gravity of a packed boat and makes in this way the loaded packraft more stable on water. The disadvantage of an internal storage is the increased weight of a fully packed packraft, the care and maintenance that such a TIZIP requires and the packing time.

Internal storage advisable for:

- Double (two-seater) packrafts as it is difficult to store the gear of two people outside on the packraft without compromising seating comfort and stability.
- Packrafting on large lakes, in fjords and high-volume rivers as a lower center of gravity makes the packraft more stable in waves and turbulent water.
- White-water packrafting as all gear outside of the boat is an entanglement hazard.
- Long-distance explorations with food and expedition gear for extended periods.

Internal storage not required for:

- Solo (one-seater) packrafts as a single bag can be easily stored on the packraft.
- Speedy and minimalistic packrafters that fit all gear in a small and light bag.



Picture 167: Airtight TiZip. Image: TiZip

1.11.13.8 Packraft Materials and Seam Constructions

A small puncture is annoying but does not sink a packraft. It simply requires re-inflating the packraft on the water while getting to the next suitable water exit and performing a field repair. In contrast, a cut or major air leak would instantly put you in danger even if the packraft is kept somewhat afloat by the inflated seats or dry bags on and in the boat. Therefore, abrasion and cut resistant materials are essential for a proper packraft.

While paddling an estimated 3’000 km we had only 3 small punctures on the more sensible Alpacka Explorer 42 and none with the more resistant MRS Barracuda R2 Pro. We fixed all leaks in the field with “Patch n’ Go” tape (two punctures in the tubes) and “Stormsure” glue (hole in the floor). Both punctures in the tubes occurred during a portage and the small hole in the floor was the result of a ground contact while packrafting a river.

High-end packraft are made of **Polyurethane (PU) coated nylon fabrics**, often with additional coatings. The wear and weather resistance makes PU preferable but handling during manufacturing is more demanding.

Polyvinylchloride (PVC) coated fabrics are more manufacturing friendly but provide less wear resistant and age within a couple of years. Therefore, more economic packraft models are sometimes made of PVC materials.

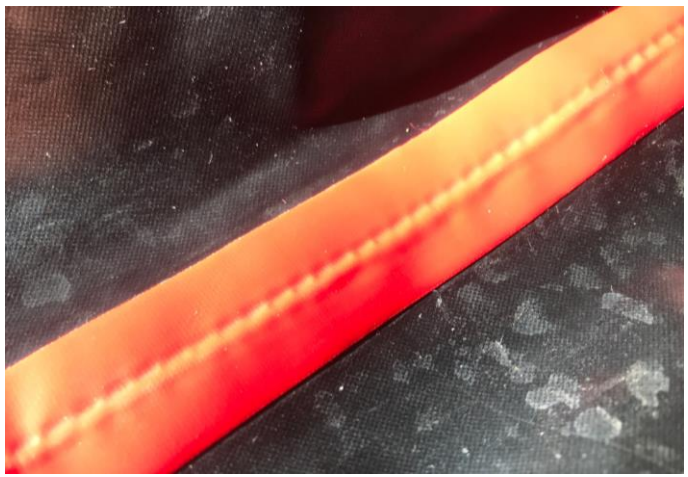
Cheap inflatable (toy) boats are made of plastic foils without reinforcing fabrics and should only be used where it does not make a difference if someone floats in the boat or swims in the water. They are good for swimming pools and leisure beaches but certainly not for Patagonian wilderness.

The seams of a packraft can be sewed, (heat) welded, glued and taped in addition. High-end products combine various methods to ensure strong and absolute air-tight seam. Such packrafts are in example sewed first, then (heat) welded and finally taped. Packrafts on the lower end of the price scale might only be (heat) welded or only glued.

Packrafts made of the lightest and least resistant materials are only suitable for shorter lake traverses and river crossings. Super light packrafts for such deployments put less than 1 kg on a scale.

Calm flat-water rivers mean a moderate exposure to wear. Packrafts for such waters start from 1.5 kg for a single packraft or 2 kg for a double packraft.

The most demanding terrain for packrafts are fjords and white-water. Seashells along the coast and frequent contact with rocks in rivers will truly test the cut and abrasion resistance of a packraft. Packrafts for such waters are made off stronger and thicker fabrics what obviously results in a higher packraft weight.





Picture 168 and Picture 169: High-end packraft seam design: sewed with high-tensile thread, heat-welded tubes, contact glued floor with taped edges inside and outside. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.13.9 Packraft Length and Seating Comfort

Length increases comfort, speed and direction stability but adds weight. This became a firsthand experience for us when we replaced our rather short Alpacka Explorer 42 by a spacy MRS Barracuda R2 Pro.

When we started packrafting with the shorter and lighter Alpacka Explorer 42 we covered more distance on land than on water, therefore keeping the weight low was a key priority. We also did not venture on larger lakes nor covered longer distances on fjords therefore we were not forced to spend several hours continuously in the cramped packraft. We became accustomed to make roughly every hour a shorter break to briefly leave the boat and stretch our legs. Without such shorter but regular breaks it became increasingly painful to remain compressed in the small seating space. But a fife minute break per hour was generally enough to fully recover and continue paddling.

In comparison the MRS Barracuda R2 Pro offers substantially more interior space and we both can fully stretch our legs in the packraft. Now the time between breaks is primarily limited by the holding capacity of our bladders. In the larger packraft we have paddled up to 5 hours continuously without feeling the necessity to briefly leave the boat and to stretch our legs, something unimaginable in the smaller Alpacka Explorer 42.

The 0.8 m longer MRS Barracuda R2 Pro runs perceivable straighter and moves with the same physical effort about 0.5 km/h faster (more to this in the next chapter). But also the weight penalty of additional 3 kg is well noticeable when hiking with the MRS Barracuda in the backpack.

Our shorter and lighter Alpacka Explorer 42:

- Exterior length: 2.8 m
- Interior length: 1.57 m
- Seating experience: Cramped seating space for two persons (Economy Class)
- Weight with seats and internal storage: 3.74 kg

Slightly longer MRS Adventure X2:

- Exterior length: 3.05 m
- Interior length: 1.73 m
- Seating experience: Less cramped seating space for two persons (Economy Plus)
- Weight with seats: 4.05 kg – 4.41 kg (without and with backrest)

Our longer and heavier MRS Barracuda R2 Pro:

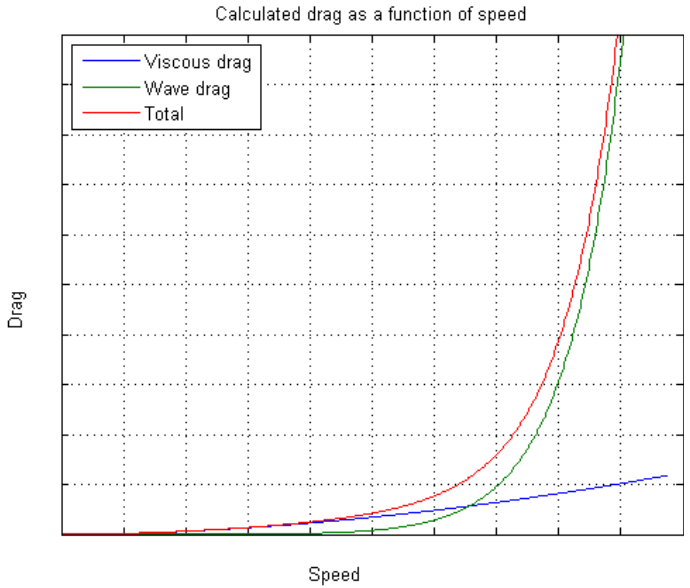
- Exterior length: 3.6 m
- Interior length: 2.17 m
- Seating experience: Comfortable seating space for two persons (Business Class)
- Weight with seats and internal storage: 5.69 kg – 6.77 kg
  (without and with spray skirts and coaming)



Picture 170:. Top: Alpacka Explorer 42 with cramped “Economy Class” seating space. Bottom: MRS Barracuda R2 Pro with comfortable “Business Cass” seating space. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.13.10 Packraft Length and Speed

The archivable speed of a packraft depends mainly on the packraft length, to some degree on the packraft shape and less on the paddler's power or boat weight. As longer a packraft, as faster it may travel. Therefore a tandem packraft is faster than a solo packraft, and this not because two paddlers propel one boat; what practically doubles the power; but because the hull speed of a longer double packraft is higher than the hull speed of a shorter solo packraft. And the hull speed is like a build-in speed limiter.



Picture 171: Displacement Boat Drag-Speed Function. Image: www.ybw.com

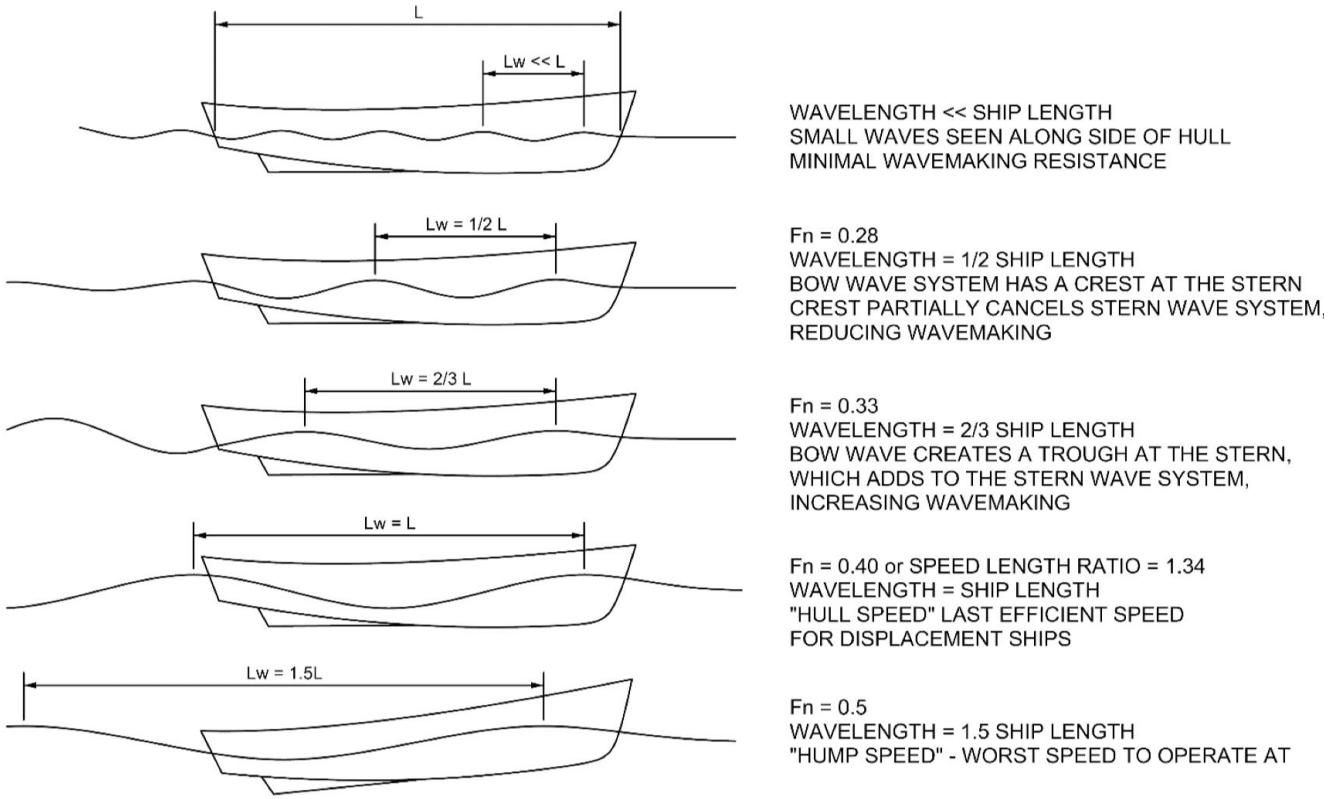
This is counter-intuitive. When walking or cycling then being lighter and moving with more effort makes you faster. But when paddling in a packraft or a similar bulky boat another effect comes into play that "land people" normally don't experience and therefore don't anticipate; wave resistance or wave drag. And this resistance or drag increases dramatically when reaching the hull speed. Therefore, a human powered packraft cannot surpass this speed regardless how hard someone paddles. And this build-in speed limit is set by the boat length. Boat weight is pretty irrelevant.

Why this? At very low speed, the friction with the water causes a minor viscous drag. But at a speed at which the boat starts making waves the much more significant wave making resistance comes into play. When a boat moves through water the front section of the boat (bow) pushes constantly water to the side what creates a bow wave. And at the back of the boat (stern) water flows back towards the boat and fills the "hole" that is left behind by the moving boat. This creates another wave. The energy for

creating these waves is taken from the boat and slows the boat down if the packrafter does not keep paddling. And the boat moves with these waves that affect the boat and interacts with each other.

At low speed the boat travels with multiple small waves on the side of the boat that mostly compensate their effect on the boat. The boat remains levelled in the water (sketch 1, 2 and 3).

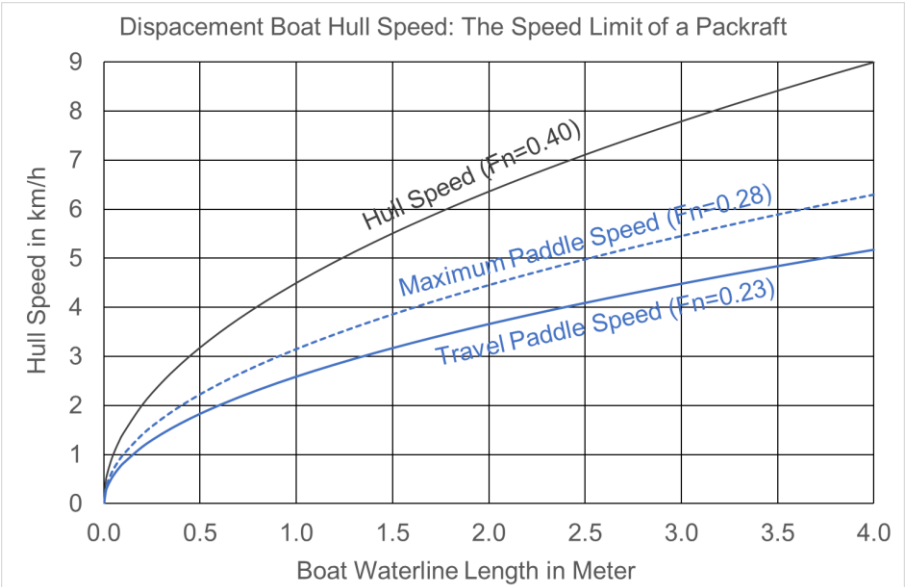
When reaching the hull speed the bow wave and the stern wave “synchronize” leaving the boat trapped in the valley or “hole” between both waves (sketch 4, Fn=0.40). To accelerate out of this “hole” the front of the boat must climb up the bow wave while the back of the boat drops in the wave valley behind (sketch 5, Fn=0.5). So above the hull speed that boat floats not anymore flat in the water but the boat itself creates the “water hill” that moves with the boat and that must be constantly climbed. On a shorter boat this occurs at a lower speed because the distance between the bow (wave) and the stern (wave) is shorter. But as longer the boat, as higher the speed at which the boat gets trapped in its own wave.



Picture 172: Wave Making Resistance. Image: www.wikimedia.org

A properly powered motorboat can accelerate out of this trap and start gliding over the water. But this needs much more energy than a paddler can possibly provide. Even a packraft sail in good wind does not generate enough power to accelerate the packraft over this water hump.

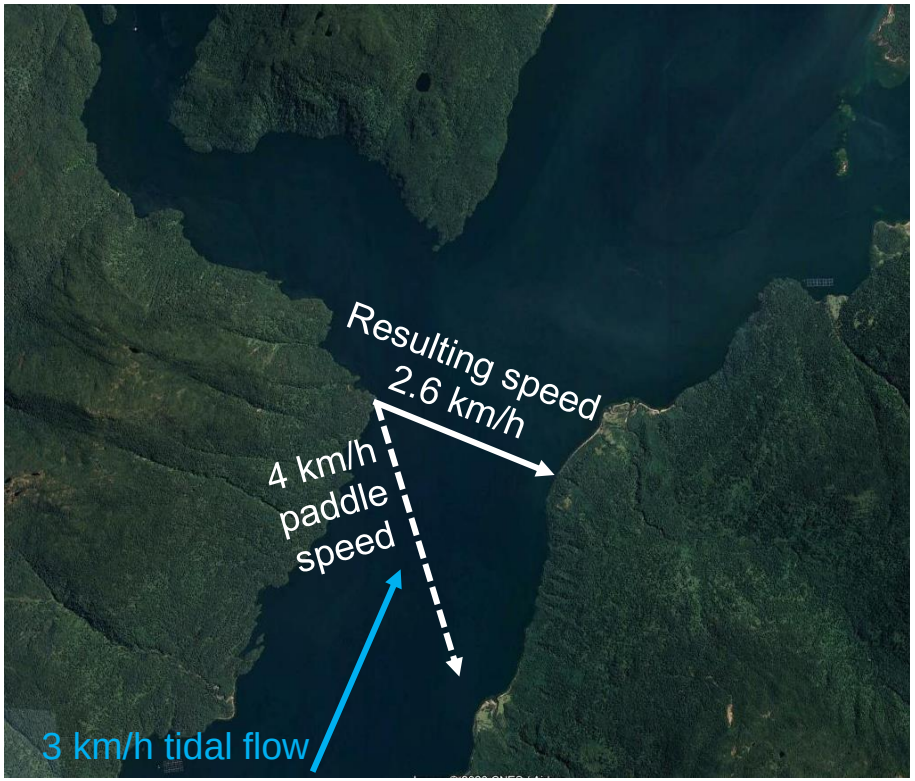
The high wave making resistance at hull speed, prevents that a packrafter reaches hull speed by paddling, but maybe 70% of it. Therefore, calculating with the hull speed of packrafts is somewhat misguiding. To compare the behaviour of packrafts of different length, the Froude number is more helpful (in the picture before abbreviated with Fn). This number describes the relation between boat length, boat velocity and wave drag. The same Froude number means the same wave drag and allows a comparison at what speed boats of different length behave similar.



Picture 173: Displacement Boat Hull Speed. Image: Jan D.

Speed Character of Packrafts of Different Length	Froude number	Short Single 2.0 m Long	Long Single 2.4 m Long	Short Tandem 2.8 m Long	Long Tandem 3.6 m Long
Travel paddle speed (long-term endurance)	0.23	3.7 km/h	4.0 km/h	4.3 km/h	4.9 km/h
Maximum paddle speed (short-term peak power)	0.28	4.5 km/h	4.9 km/h	5.3 km/h	6.0 km/h
Typical sailing speed (moderate wind)	0.33	5.3 km/h	5.8 km/h	6.2 km/h	7.1 km/h
Maximum sailing speed (“Hull Speed”, feels scary)	0.40	6.4 km/h	7.0 km/h	7.5 km/h	8.6 km/h

Table 9: Approximate packraft speed



Picture 174: Fjord crossing vertical to the tidal flow and resulting true speed. Image: Google Earth

The velocities in the table above are relative velocities between the water and the packraft and do not take in account the movement of the water itself. So, on a lake (where water barely moves) with no wind a packrafter with longer solo packraft (2.4 m) can paddle about 4 km/h while a couple in a long tandem packraft (3.6 m) can advance with around 5 km/h without exhaustion.

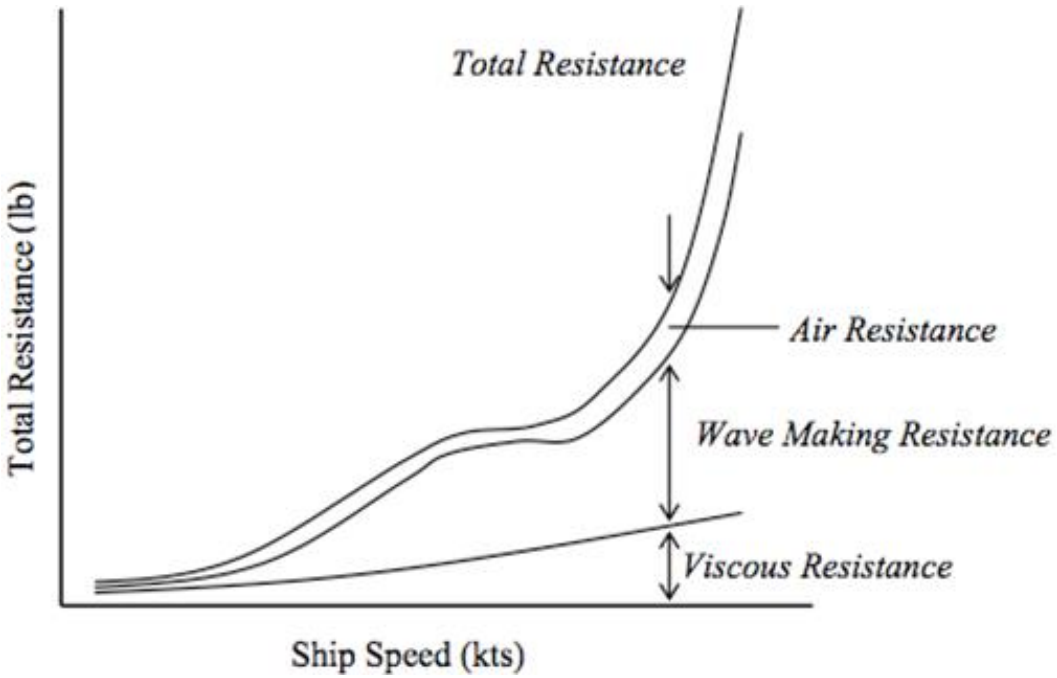
In a fjord with an opposing tidal flow of 3 km/h a solo packrafter with the long solo packraft will advance with only 1 to 2 km/h if paddling really hard. But a couple in the long tandem packraft can travel with 2 to 3 km/h if pushing their limits. In this example 3 km/h are lost to the tide.

And on a river with a water speed of 6 km/h no packraft will be fast enough to battle upstream against the flow. Maybe right on the river shore where the flow is slower someone can advance a couple of hundred meters against the flow but the rather low speed of a packraft makes it practically impossible to travel upstream on rivers.

These examples show why a small difference in speed can become quite relevant. Especially in fjords with tidal flows a resulting travel speed of 1 to 2 km/h practically forces you out of the water to wait for better conditions while a travel speed of 2 to 3 km/h still gets you somewhere.

The air resistance is small compared to the wave making resistance. This means in calm weather the air resistance is neglectable and the wave drag limits the speed of the packraft. So on a perfectly calm day with a travel speed of 5 km/h the air resistance will not be noticeable.

But the air resistance increases with the square of the airspeed and a packraft has a rather large wind attack surface. With a light breeze in the face (roughly 10 km/h windspeed) the relative airspeed is 3 times higher (5 km/h paddle speed + 10 km/h wind speed = 15 km/h relative air speed) and the resulting air resistance will be 9 times higher than in perfectly calm weather. This already slows down a packraft. A moderate breeze corresponds to an airspeed of approximately 20 to 25 km/h so the air resistance is roughly 30 times higher than in calm conditions. This practically stops a packraft and makes it impractical to paddle longer distances against the wind.



Picture 175: Boat resistance. Image: US Naval Academy Engineering 400 Class, Chapter 7. RESISTANCE AND POWERING OF SHIPS

But if the wind favours you then the wind really pushes a packraft because a packraft has a rather larger surface above the water. A moderate breeze accelerates a packraft to paddle speed and when deploying a sail (more to this later) the packraft accelerates above the maximum paddle speed.

It is also counterintuitive that the boat weight does not affect the wave drag and boat speed significant; it's indeed primarily the boat length that matters. Read an analytic article to this topic if you are curious and want to see charts based on actual measurements. So what really matters while hiking; keeping the backpack light and small; becomes irrelevant on water. This means when packrafting in fjords you can carry plenty of sweat water and calculate the food supply rather generously. Just make sure that land portages are feasible and not unnecessary annoying.

The excessive increase of drag when reaching 60% of the hull speed leads to an important conclusion: it's pointless to paddle at the exhaustion limit because the minimal gain in speed simply does not compensate for the additional resting time needed. The ideal paddle speed on lakes and in fjords is at a physical effort that can be maintained over several hours without exhaustion and a minimum of breaks.

Solo packrafts may consider a short open tandem packraft instead of open solo packraft. The speed benefit might compensate for the weight penalty and the dry bag may be placed in the boat (and not on top of the bow) making the loaded packraft more stable.

A slim kayak cuts though the water and generates a much smaller bow wave and a much smaller stern wave therefore a sea kayak travels substantially faster than a packraft. The principals outlined in this chapter apply to bulky "displacement" boats only. Also, kayaks have a smaller wind attack surface above the waterline making sea kayaks less sensitive to wind. Both properties, the higher speed and lower sensitivity to wind make sea kayaks the optimal human powered boat for the Patagonian fjords. Waters that are still manageable in a sea kayak are normally "off limits" for packrafts.

1.11.13.11 Kayak or Canoe Paddles in Tandem Packraft

For a solo packraft there is only one suitable paddle option: A 4-piece kayak paddle. But for a tandem packraft two options should be considered:

- Paddle option 1: A 6-piece canoe paddle set.
- Paddle option 2: Two 4-piece kayak paddles.

Paddle option 1: Canoe paddles in a double packraft:



Picture 176: Paddling with Canoe Paddles on Rio Baker on GPT36P. Image: Jan Dudeck

- A 6-piece canoe paddle set can be assembled either into two canoe paddles or one kayak paddle. This allows that either both partners paddle simultaneously with one canoe paddle each or that one paddler has full control of the boat with one kayak paddle.
- A canoe paddle set (roughly 1.4 kg) is slightly lighter than two kayak paddles (roughly 2 x 1 kg).
- Since each packrafter paddles on one side only there is no interference while paddling. This makes canoe paddles more suitable for shorter packrafts (e.g. Alpacka Explorer 42 with a length of 2.8 m).
- Both packrafters must adjust the stroke intensity to maintain a constant bearing. Most packrafters will need a few days to learn this and to move intuitively on a straight line.

- Equally strong packrafters can paddle effectively with two canoe paddles but in case of unequal strong packrafters the weaker paddler generally limits the paddling speed otherwise the bearing is not maintained.
- On fast moving rivers with tight turns and eddies we normally converted the two canoe paddles into one kayak paddle so the stronger packrafter in the back of the packraft takes control of the boat. Two packrafters with one canoe paddle each might struggle to precisely maneuver a packraft on fast moving water.
- With canoe paddles less water drips into a packraft as the blades are normally not lifted far out of the water.

Paddle option 2: Kayak Paddles in a Double Packraft:

- Unequally strong packrafters can paddle effectively as the same paddle frequency can be combined with a different stroke intensity.
- On fast moving rivers with tight turns and eddies two kayak paddles provide the best control of the packraft (better than a single kayak paddle or two canoe paddles).
- Two kayak paddles require sufficient distance between both paddlers therefore two kayak paddles are only suitable for longer boats (e.g. our MRS Barracuda R2 Pro with a length of 3.6 m). Most packrafters will need a few days to instinctively coordinate the paddle rhythm to stop hitting each other's paddle while paddling.



Picture 177: Paddling with Kayak Paddles in Seno Melimoyu on GPT28P. Image: Jan D.

1.11.13.12 Wind and Packraft Sail

The rather large wind attack surface of a packraft above the water line makes it very exhausting and inefficient to paddle against the wind. Also moving against the waves creates additional drag and annoying water spray. With a moderate breeze into the face packrafters hardly advance and struggle to keep control of the direction of travel. Therefore, travelling against the wind should be avoided whenever possible. If the wind picks up to an uncomfortable level while paddling on a lake or fjord it might be prudent to turn the packraft around and return with the wind to the last suitable exit point.

But wind from the back can accelerate a packraft noticeable, and this with or without a sail. When sailing the non-linear correlation between drag and speed becomes particular evident. Already a gentle breeze accelerates a packraft to the normal paddle travel speed if deploying a packraft sail. But increasingly stronger wind accelerates a packraft disproportional less and even strong wind does not propel the packraft beyond the hull speed.



Picture 178: Sailing on Lago Las Rocas on GPT22. Image: Jan Dudeck

For several reasons, **a sail is more beneficial with a double packraft**:

- The hull speed of a longer double packraft is higher than the hull speed of a shorter single packraft therefore the additional propulsion of a sail translates only into a noticeable higher speed if deployed in a longer packraft.
- Controlling the sail needs attention and ideally two hands. Sail corrections are frequently required as the wind rarely blows precisely in the travel direction. A controlled asymmetric orientation of the sail permits sailing up to 45° sideways to the wind.
- Sailing often requires fast steering corrections. Therefore, the person in front manages the sail while the person in the back steers the packraft. This is either done with controlled paddle strokes or by deploying the paddle as a rudder. To facilitate steering we often convert the two canoe paddles into one longer kayak paddle in the hands of the rear person.
- When using a tandem packraft then the additional weight of the sail is shared between two persons.

A sail is less beneficial with a single packraft:

- A single person might struggle to maintain the sail and steer the packraft simultaneously.
- The potential speed gain by the sail is limited in a shorter single packraft.

A slim kayak generates less drag in water and has a smaller wind attack surface. This makes a kayak faster and more maneuverable in wind than a packraft. Therefore, conditions that still manageable in a kayak are often not manageable in a packraft.

1.11.13.13 Dry suit

As outlined earlier, the most important packraft safety item is a dry suit. Packrafting in Patagonian without a dry suit is irresponsible and has contributed to a fatal packrafting accident in Patagonia in 2020. For more information to various fatal packraft incidents read www.thingstolucat.com/2019/08/15/packraft-fatalities.

Dry suits are substantially lighter than neoprene wet suites and keep the skin during sometimes long paddle days dry. Also, under the dry suit the regular cloth can be worn for thermal protection. Therefore, I recommend dry suits and do discuss the option of neoprene wet suites in more detail.

Rain gear is not a suitable replacement for a dry suit but a dry suit substitutes rain gear if a wear resistant dry suit feet option is chosen.

Depending on the manufacturer there are 3 options for the feet finish:

- Feet option 1: Wet feet with latex leg seal (cuffs)
- Feet option 2: Dry feet with enclosed fabric socks
- Feet option 3: Dry feet with enclosed latex socks

Feet options 1 leaves the feet outside the dry suit and seals the legs with latex





Picture 179 & 180: Walking in the dry suit. Top: Valley of Rio Gualas on GPT91P.
Bottom: Rio Turbio on GPT28H.
Image: Jan Dudeck & Meylin Ubilla

cuffs (like the hands are outside and sealed with latex cuffs at the lower arm). We dislike this option for two reasons: we hate cold feet and leg cuffs make the entry and exit of the dry suit less convenient. The seeming benefit is that such a dry suit seams more suitable for walking, but feet option 3 proved equally suitable for hiking in the dry suit.

Feet option 2 has integrated fabric socks that are made of the same or a similar breathable material as the rest of the dry suit. This promises a better feet climate. But these fabrics are quickly worn and damaged when walking longer distances with the dry suit. We opted therefore against such fabric socks as we occasionally hike in poor weather with the dry suit.

Feet option 3 has integrated latex socks. These socks are large enough to enter the dry suit easily with two or three pairs of socks what results in warm and reasonable dry feet even after 12 hours of paddling in the dry suit. These rubber socks are also sufficiently robust to walk with the dry suit. If punctured these latex socks are easily repaired with the packrafting repair material or bicycle tire patches. Based on our experience **I clearly recommend integrated latex socks**.

Depending on the manufacturer there are 2 options for the neck seal:

- Neck option 1: Neoprene Neck Seal
- Neck option 2: Latex Neck Seal

Neck option 1 has a neoprene seal that feels softer but seals not as good a latex neck. This is a disadvantage in white water but on the GPT packrafting routes this is normally not an issue.

Neck option 2 has a latex seal that might feel unpleasantly tight when tried for the first time or when the seal size does not match the neck. On my dry suit I had to shorten the latex neck slightly. To facilitate such adjustments the latex neck has multiple cutting lines but be careful to not cut off too much. What may feel tight at first may become comfortable when getting used to it or when the latex neck stretches slightly over time.

We have used both options and **we feel comfortable with neoprene and latex neck seals**.

To facilitate peeing some manufacturers offer an optional waterproof zipper next to the crotch: a “P-Zip”. I find this feature extremely useful and **highly recommend the P-Zip to men and women**. It helps keeping the dry suit dry from the inside. Of cause, women need an SheWee or similar to make use of the P-Zip. See www.shewee.com/the-shewee-extreme.html 🌎.



Picture 181: Shewee. Image: Shewee

In case of a “bladder emergency” without a nearby exit do not hesitate to open the P-zip and simply pee into the packraft. A packraft is not only waterproof but also pee resistant and easily washed out when shoring the next time.

Recently two-piece dry suits appeared on the market. These dry suits can be split into a rain jacket and waterproof pants with a watertight zipper. This facilitate putting on the dry suit and permits wearing each item individually. Such a two-piece dry suit also eliminates the need of a P-Zip. We never tested or used even such “split suites” therefore I’m reluctant to opinion on it.

So far, we used only Anfibio dry suits. They are made of a robust fabric and the non-frills design makes them light and affordable. See www.packrafting-store.de 🌎. But the Anfibio dry suits have one weakness: the seams. The seams at the arms, the buttocks and the legs get worn because the yarn is exposed and repetitive movements while paddling and walking simply wears the yarn off. We have seen substantial wear after only 10 days of use and our first dry suit fell apart at the seams after only two seasons.

Anfibio seems not particular interested in resolving this problem therefore we developed a solution ourselves. Before first use, we now **apply a thin layer of SeamGrip from McNett on all critical seams** to cover the yarn with a protective layer of rubber.

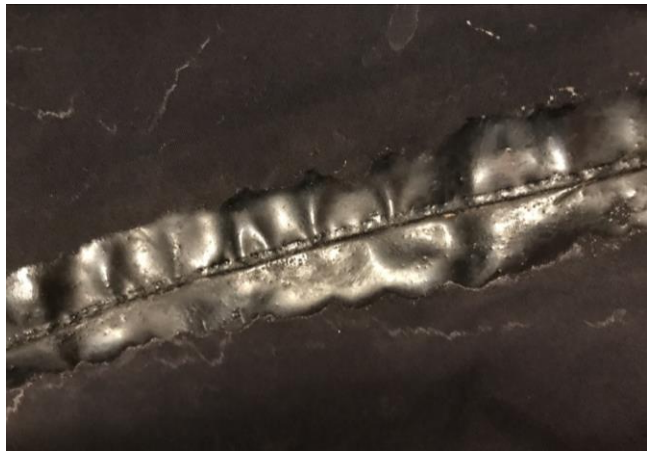
SeamGrip is really sticky and stinky stuff until dried after roughly 12 hours. Therefore, we lay down the dry suit to treat a part of the seams. We do not move the dry suit for at least 12 hours and then apply SeamGrip to the remaining seams to wait again at least 12 hours. If this stuff gets onto your fingers, there is no way to wash it off. You will need to wait until it cures to then peel it off.

After all critical seams are treated baby powder or chalk must be applied to all SeamGrip surfaces. This prevents that SeamGrip fuses together when the dry suit is packed and layers of SeamGrip touch each other. Once cured, SeamGrip forms a watertight, very elastic and wear resistant rubber layer that bonds very well to the fabric. This protects the





Picture 182 & 183: Dry suit seam wear after paddling 200 km in 10 days. Image: Jan Dudeck





Picture 184 & 185: Dry suit seam treatment with SeamGrip from McNett. This creates a resistant rubber layer that protects the yarn from wear. Image: Jan Dudeck

yarn from wear and increases the life expectancy of a dry suit with such a seam design substantially. The same “liquid rubber” is also ideal for minor repairs like punctures.

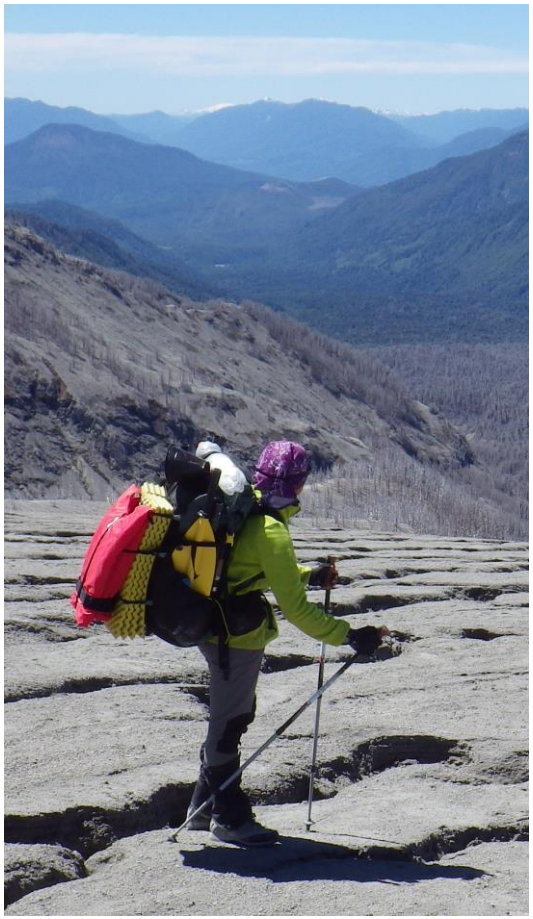
1.11.13.14 Personal Floatation Device (PFD)

There are different types of PFD's: some contain foam elements to generate buoyance while others are inflatable. For white-water rafting only PFD's with robust foam elements and a high buoyance are recommended but for packrafting on calmer rivers, on lakes and in fjords an inflatable PFD is a viable alternative. While packrafting the GPT we used both options: a light-weight buoyance aid with foam elements and inflatable PFD's. The weight of both options is similar but an inflatable PFD packs smaller.





Picture 187 and 188: Foam PFD on the left and inflatable PFD on the right. Image: Jan Dudeck and Meylin Ubilla



Picture 186: Backpack with PFD attached outside due to high volume. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.13.15 Packrafting Clothing

Over time we added clothing items that are either specifically made for water sports or turned out to be especially useful:



Picture 189: Paddling Lago Reichert on the western edge of the Northern Icefield on GPT91P. Meylin on the left with a water repellant fleece cap and Jan on the right with the waterproof heat. Image: Meylin Ubilla

- **Waterproof heat** made of a breathable membrane material (Gore-Tex). This heat is an excellent rain cover and sun shield and protect glasses from rain and water spray. I love it!
- **Water repellant fleece cap** that fits also under the waterproof heat and isolates also when wet.
- **Neoprene paddle gloves** with slightly curved finger for cold and wet conditions.
- **Neoprene socks** (approx. 3 mm thickness). If the neoprene socks are dry, then these socks are best worn inside the dry suit over one or two pairs of regular socks to provide additional insolation. When wet or when hiking with the dry suit the neoprene socks are best worn over the dry suit to provide additional protection of the dry suit.

1.11.13.16 Packrafting Shoes

The safe entry and exit of the packraft require proper shoes that firmly attach to the feet and have a puncture resistant sole. A pair of neoprene socks worn over the dry suit is to my experience insufficient. Also, Crocs appear suboptimal to me as they easily fall off e.g. during an unintentional wet exit.

We wear either our regular hiking trail runners that we purchase intentionally one or two sizes larger to fit over with the dry suit and two or three pairs of socks. Recently we were recommended Vivobarefoot ULTRA III BLOOM shoes which I tested one season. These shoes are made off closed-cell-foam that does not absorb any water making them ideal for paddling, river crossings and as camp shoes.

Add images.

1.11.13.17 Packrafting (Back)Packs

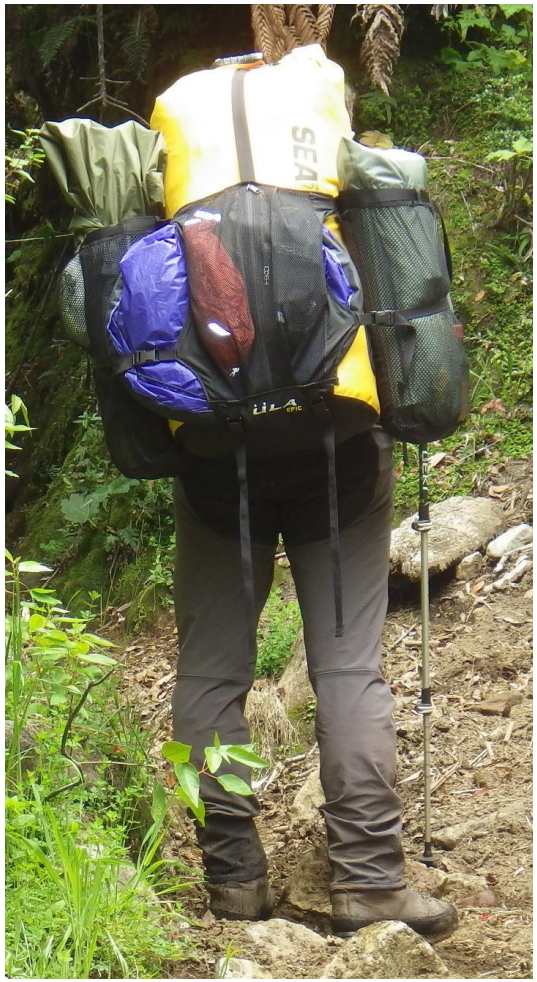
Packrafting requires a waterproof bag even if the packraft has an internal storage. Therefore, we use and recommend backpacks that incorporate such a waterproof bag.

There are two types of backpacks that meet this criteria:

- Backpack option 1: Two-piece systems with a carrying system and a separate dry bag
- Backpack option 2: Integrated systems that merge a dry bag with a carrying system or harness into one piece of equipment

Between 2015 and 2020 we used a two-piece system as this is easier to modify and repair. We opted for the ÜLA EPIC backpack that incorporates a 65 Liter dry bag. To increase the volume, I replaced the 65 Liter Sea to Summit bag by a 79 Liter Ortlieb bag[55]. I loaded this backpack with up 35 kg. Another recommended two-piece backpack is the Sea to Summit Hydraulic™ Dry Pack with Harness that comes in a 65 Liter, 90 Liter and even 120 Liter version.

In 2021 we switched to an integrated one-piece system and purchased the Crux 3G AK70 backpack which merges the dry bag with a comfortable carrying system that is designed for high loads. This has been the best and most comfortable packraft-friendly backpack we have used so



Picture 190: ÜLA Epic with mom-made side bags. Image: Jan Dudeck

[55] To securely attach the larger Ortlieb bag to the packraft I glued four non-wicking lash loops to the sides of the Ortlieb bag with SeamGrip from McNett.

far. Another suitable integrated one-piece backpack is the Hyperlight MountainGear PORTER that incorporates a Dyneema® dry bag (lighter but more complicated to modify and repair).

Add image.

To carry bulky gear, my mom tailored side bags that attach to the sides of the backpack (ÜLA Epic and Crux 3G AK70. In these side bags we place items that do not need protection from rain e.g. the paddles, packrafting accessories (spray skirt, coaming, inflatable PFD's), dry suits, the tent, and mattress(es). We also securely attach the packraft to one side of one backpack. When walking in dense vegetation these side bags might clash occasionally with vegetation, but in such an environment I find a wider bag less annoying than a backpack that reached above the head.

One weakness of the Sea to Summit Big River dry bag are the seams (the dry bag that is included with the ÜLA Epic backpack). The tapes that seal the seams from the inside crack open quickly so water can leak in. We resolved this issue by sealing the seams with SeamGrip from McNett from the outside (same fix as done on our dry suits).



Picture 193: In dense vegetation I find side bags less annoying than a too high backpack. Image: Jan D.

To review other packrafting backpack opinions read www.hikeventures.com/best-backpack-for-packrafting 🌎.





Picture 191 & 192: Sea to Summit Big River dry bag with cracked taped seams. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.13.18 Packrafting Lifeline, Leashes and Luggage Ties

Cords can save lives and cords can take lives.

In fast moving water and especially in white-water all strings are a potentially deathly entanglement hazard. Therefore, white-water kayakers don't use paddle leashes to tie the paddle to the kayak. And connecting yourself to the boat with a string is absolute no-go on rivers. If white-water kayakers suffer an involuntary wet exit, they rely on their instincts to hold on to the paddle and their group to recover the boat.



Picture 194: Paddle leash that connects the paddle to the packraft. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 195: 2 m body leash that connects the packrafter to the boat on lakes and in fjords. Image: Jan Dudeck

On open water e.g. on lakes and in fjords the situation is different especially when not paddling in a group. Even moderate wind moves a packraft faster than someone can swim with a bulky PFD. Therefore, attaching yourself and your paddles to the packraft with leashes lowers the risk of getting separated from the packraft in adverse conditions. We use a shorter coiled paddle leash and a 2 m long coiled body leash. Obviously, also on open water cords pose an entanglement hazard therefore leashes should have a safety snap mechanism. The leash should rip off when the force exceeds a critical threshold. Packrafters should also carry a knife tied to the PFD to free themselves if entangled in a cord.



Picture 197: Closed, circular lifeline all around the packraft. Image: Jan Dudeck

On open water also a lifeline all around the packraft is advisable. After an involuntary wet exit, a lifeline helps to hold onto the boat, to flip back the capsized raft and to re-enter the pack-raft in open water. This should be exercised with the loaded packraft near a beach.

It remains debatable if paddle leashes and a packraft lifeline are advisable on calmer flat-water rivers or not. We normally attach our paddles to the packraft and leave the lifeline on our packraft when rafting flat-water rivers. But to minimize the likelihood of accidents we also porter around rapids that others consider well-navigable especially when packrafting with one boat only. But on rivers we never leash us to the packraft. We do this only on lakes and in fjords.

To install a circular lifeline additional grab loops may need to be glued on the boat. We prefer 10 grab loops, 4 on the front (bow), 4 on the back (stern), 1 on the center left side (port side) and 1 on the center right side (starboard side). The lifeline and the grab loops also facilitate carrying the packraft on land.



Picture 196: Coiled 2 m long body leash to connect ourselves to the packraft on lakes and in fjords. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.11.13.19 Packraft Inflation Device

A packraft is pre-filled with air with an inflation bag and then pressurized by mouth. The packraft air chamber is designed for the pressure generated by human lungs (roughly 0.1 bar) but not for mechanical pumps. Therefore, pumps are not required and must be used with care if deployed.

An inflation bag adds approximately 130 g (MRS or Alpacka inflation bag). To optimize weight, we replaced on some journeys the original inflation bag by a modified light-weight dry bag by adding a valve adapter and a cap to the dry bag. In this way the dry bag doubled as inflation bag.

The appropriate pressure must be maintained the keep the packraft sturdy and stable. Even a minor pressure loss makes the packraft wobbly and flex in waves. The most common causes for a drop in pressure is the temperature change when putting the freshly inflated packraft in cold water and minor air leaks on the internal storage TIZIP.



Picture 198: Inflating the packraft with a modified dry bag at Lago Pellaifa on GPT17P. Image: Meylin U.



Picture 199: DIY inflation bag elements. Image: Jan D.



Picture 200: DIY inflation bag. Image: Jan D.

Therefore, the packrafter must monitor the packraft pressure and compensate pressure losses as needed. When packrafting larger lakes or fjords the packrafter must do this on the water without leaving the boat and without opening the spray deck on a decked packraft. This makes the valve position on the packraft relevant.

On our Alpacka Explorer 42 the person in the back can easily reach the valve but on the MRS Barracuda R2 Pro the valve is too far to the front (bow). In this MSR packraft it is simply not possible to top-up the pressure on the water without pulling off the spray skirt and climbing out of the seat; something you should not even consider doing in adverse conditions.



To rectify this issue, we build an inflation hose that can be screwed to the MSR packraft valve. With this hose the person in the front can inflate the boat anytime from its seat without opening the spray deck. This hose incorporates a valve at the mouthpiece. We install this hose normally on lakes and fjords but not when packrafting rivers.



Picture 201: Self-made inflation hose. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 202 & 203: Inflation hose details. Image: Jan Dudeck

Instead of an inflation bag a slightly heavier battery powered electric pump may be used. The “Flextail Max Pump Plus” adds 170 g to the backpack and seems ideal for this purpose as the volume flow is high (265 Liter per Minute) but the maximum pressure of this pump is low (0.02 bar) meaning that this pump cannot rupture a packraft. Kokopelli rebranded this product as “Feather Pump”.



Picture 204: Flextailgear Max Pump Plus. Image: Amazon

Inflating the entire packraft with the lungs is not recommended especially if the packraft lacks an internal storage and is not prefilled with gear. This would only be a last resort.

1.11.13.20 Packraft Repair Set

While paddling an estimated 3’000 km we had only 3 small punctures on the more sensible Alpacka Explorer 42. We fixed them in the field with Patch n’ Go (two puncture on the tubes) and Stormsure glue (hole in the floor).

Our packraft repair kit contains:

- Patch n’ Go repair set
- Anfibio Lifepatches
- Stormsure glue (for packraft and dry suit)
- TIZIP lubricant
- Shortened toothbrush

1.11.13.21 Other Lessons Learned and Best Practices

1.11.13.21.1 Selecting Equipment

If available, we select equipment and clothing in bright and well-noticeable colors e.g. yellow, red, and orange to easily spot these items and to facilitate a search and rescue in the unfortunate event of an emergency. This applies to large items like the packraft, the dry suit and dry bags but also smaller items like knives, flashlights, and cameras. Unfortunately, some products only come in black e.g. the MSR Barracuda R2 Pro. I do not understand the popularity of camouflaged leisure equipment as I'm not going for war when adventuring.

1.11.13.21.2 Learning and Self-Rescue

In hindsight, it would have been very useful if we have taken some packraft or kayak lessons with a professional instructor. Some lessons we learned the hard way in an environment that can be unforgiving. Especially river packrafting requires expertise to read the water correctly, to select the appropriate line of travel and to recognize when to better exit a river and porter a rapid.

We exercised self-rescue near a beach on a windy day with lots of waves while the wind was pushing us to the beach. We jumped out of the packraft in water that was too deep to stand, flipped the packraft, flipped it back and re-entered the boat. In this exercise we noticed how useful the packraft lifeline is. To flip the boat, it was best to have one of use on each side of the packraft so one could lift the packraft while the other leaned over the boat and pulled it up by holding to the lifeline.

We now also carry a throw-bag with a rescue rope. When needed, we use this rope to tow the packraft or to tie it to a tree or other solid object when making a break without lifting the packraft out of the water.

1.11.13.21.3 Planning

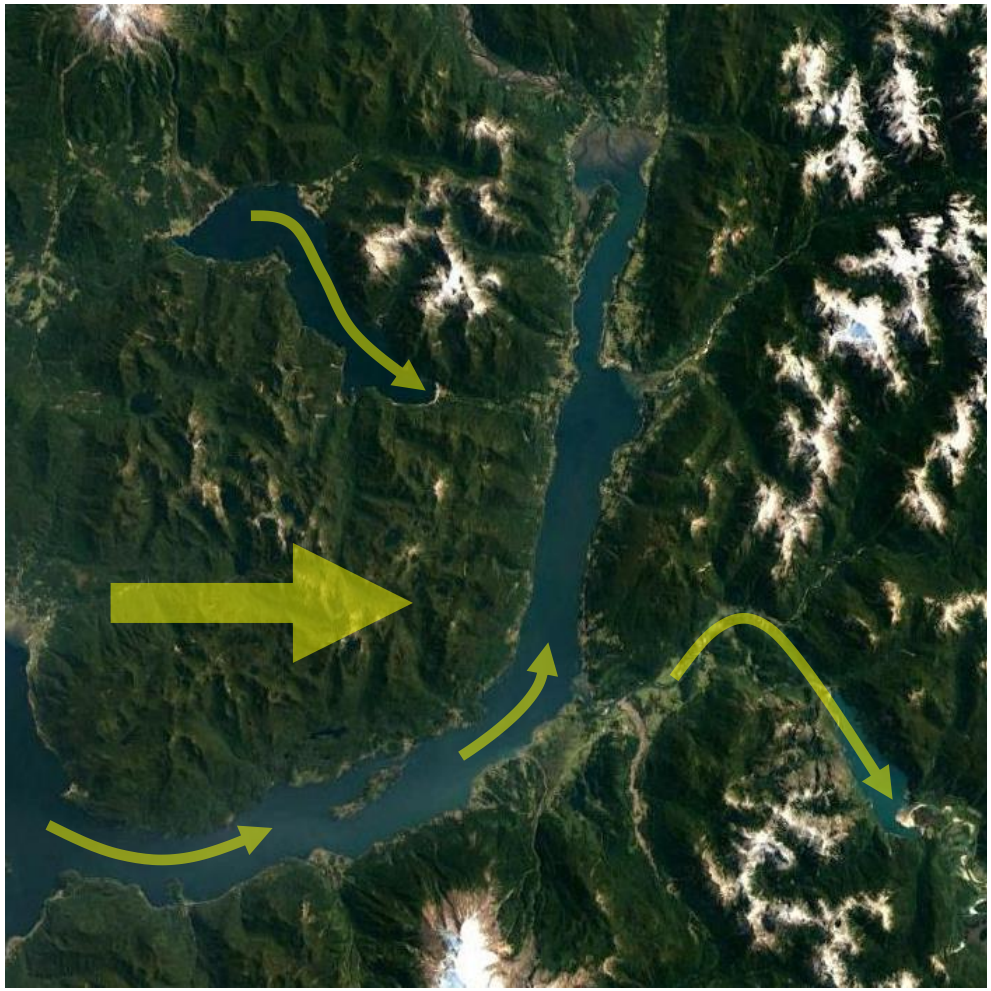
Before venturing on a packrafting section we get a current weather forecast (e.g. InReach or mobile phone on www.yr.no and www.windy.com), study maps and satellite images to anticipate the predominant wind directions, memorize potential exit points, evaluate river rapids and riffles and other hazards. Before we depart, we discuss and agree on alternative plans should conditions change.

In Patagonian, the predominant wind direction can often be anticipated based on the geography and weather conditions.

Rule 1: Wind comes primarily from west and is redirected on the ground by the mountains to follow the valleys and fjords.

Rule 2: Often, the wind intensity follows a daily cycle. The morning is normally clam, between 10 am and noon the wind picks up, reaches is maximum between 2 pm and 5 pm and then calms down in the evening. This cycle is typical for sunny days.

Rule 3: On sunny days the wind often has a northbound component (wind is coming from the south: "*Viento Sur*").



Picture 205: Predominant wind direction and the redirection of wind by mountains into valleys and fjords. Image: Google Earth

Rule 4: On rainy days the wind may have a southbound component (wind is coming from the north: “*Viento Norte*”).

Rule 5: During summer wind from the east is rare but may occur occasionally (“*Viento Puelche*”). *Viento Puelche* is more common in winter and may last for days.

Rule 6: As further south as stronger and less predictable the wind becomes.

1.11.13.21.4 Packing and Storage

On solo packrafts the dry bag is normally tied to the front (bow). This makes the boat more balanced and shields some water spray. This applies also to shorter double packrafts; the bag goes best to the front (bow). So, on our shorter Alpacka Explorer 42 with a length of 2.8 m we always placed the remaining gear in a dry bag on the bow (all gear that does not go in the internal storage).



Picture 206: Dry bag on front (bow) and single packrafts and shorter doubles. Image: Jan Dudeck

Gear and food that we need during the day we store easily accessible on the boat in the dry bag or a transparent day bag. These are: navigation device (GPS), camera, food and water for the entire day, toilet paper and toilet shovel, repair gear, first-aid set, possibly required clothing and the inflation bag (which is not needed during the day but required after closing the internal storage TIZIP).

On longer double packrafts with a spray deck the dry bag can be installed on either side (bow or stern). On our MRS Barracuda R2 Pro we prefer to attach the dry bag on the back (stern) what creates a comfortable backrest and leaves a better vision and more space for the sail on the front (bow).

When packrafting lakes and fjords we now generally place the GPS screen-up in a transparent waterproof bag to have hands-free visibility of our progress on the navigation device and to monitor our speed. Especially in fjords the effect of tidal currents should be monitored by GPS as these effects are not clearly visible when not paddling directly along the shore.

In rivers it seems prudent to us to carry the InReach communication device on the body and not attached to the boat. When packrafting rivers we now also carry an emergency blanket on our body. (But on lakes and in fjords we typically have the InReach secured to the boat.)

We secure all items that we cannot effort to lose either to the boat or to the PFD. This is practically everything we carry, except maybe a bottle of water (we normally carry one or two 1.5 Liter soft drink plastic bottles). To minimize entanglement hazards we avoid loose cords and place objects in pockets (e.g. knife and whistle secured with a cord but placed in a PFD pocket).





Picture 207: Dry bag on the back (stern) on our larger double packraft and transparent bag with GPS screen up as “cockpit” bag between seats. Image: Jan Dudeck

We attach flotation aids to the InReach, the GPS and the camera so these objects don't sink in water if accidentally dropped.

The dry bag and its fixation straps are entanglement hazards. To minimize the hazard, we keep the fixations tight.

For our MRS Barracuda R2 Pro I designed with my mom a bag with a zipper that goes under the spray deck between both seats. This location is perfect for frequently needed smaller items as it is shielded from water (and when accidentally dropping an item it falls into the boat and not in the water).



Picture 208: Mom-made bag that attaches under the spray deck between both seats.

1.11.13.21.5 Internal Storage and TIZIP

Both of our double packrafts have TIZIP's to store gear inside the air chamber. But we normally do not store all our gear in the internal storage but we attach one bag with food and other heavy stuff on the hull of the packraft. In this way we can quickly detach this sometimes heavy bag to make the packraft light enough to lift is more easily out of the water and on our heads. With the packraft on the heads, we can carry the partially loaded packraft more easily to a camp site or porter it over shorter land traverses.



Picture 209: Dry bag with heavy gear to lighten the boat quickly when needed. Images: Jan D.

In the internal storage we pack all the spacy stuff (sleeping gear and tent, clothing, shoes, cooking gear) and other non-essential smaller items that should be well

protected from the water. We make sure that the tent and tarp are easily accessible and close to the TIZIP. In rain it is beneficial to setup the tent first before unpacking the internal storage directly into the tent.

We avoid sandy beaches for packing and unpacking our packraft as sand is the main enemy of the internal storage TIZIP. Some grains of sand in the TIZIP result in an annoying air loss while paddling. To prevent and stop air leaks at the TIZIP, the zipper must be inspected and cleaned before each closure. Exclusively for this purpose we carry in our packraft kid a shortened toothbrush to remove sand and debris from the TIZIP.

We also regularly seal the TIZIP with the recommended silicon lubricant.

We close and open the TIZIP slider slowly. A fast closure may leave some tooth of the TIZIP unengaged.

We do NOT deflate the packraft by pulling the TIZIP open but depressurize first the packraft by opening the valve.

We never fold the TIZIP when storing our packraft. To protect the TIZIP during transport we start rolling the deflated packraft from the opposite end of the TIZIP in a way that the TIZIP is neither folded nor kinked and ends up protected inside the roll.

The TIZIP manufacturer maintenance recommendations can be reviewed here:
www.tizip.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/200401-SuperSeal-EN.pdf

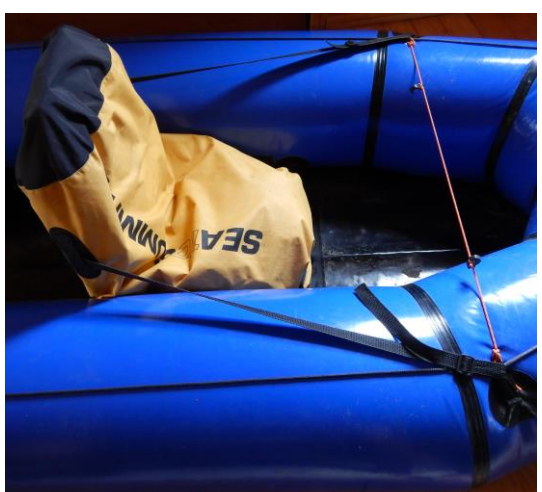
1.11.13.21.6 Alternative Seat



To minimize weight and improve seat comfort in our open Alpacka Explorer 42 we convert both ÜLA Epic backpacks into two packrafting seats. For this we partially inflate the matrasses, place them in the dry bags and form the seats. In the forward seat we place in addition the ÜLA Epic frames to create a comfortable backrest. This setup requires various fixation straps and gluing two additional grap loops to the packraft. At the seat in the back a backrest is not required. The downside of this seat arrangement is the entanglement hazard of the straps of the front seat.









Picture 210 to 214: Alternative packraft seats made of ÜLA Epic backpack components. Images: Jan Dudeck

1.11.13.21.7 Packrafting

The following tables summarizes some of our best practices and lessons learned for different types of waters:

	White-Water Rivers	Calm Flat-Water Rivers	Lakes	Fjords
Packraft Lifeline	Never	Debatable	Recommended	Recommended
Paddle Leash	Never	Debatable	Recommended	Recommended
Body Leash	Never	Never	Recommended	Recommended
Safety Helmet	Recommended	Normally not required	Normally not required	Normally not required
PFD Type	High-Boyance Foam	Foam or Inflatable PFD	Foam or Inflatable PFD	Foam or Inflatable PFD
Packraft Type	Single Packraft	Single or Double	Single or Double	Single or Double
Communication Device (inReach)	Tied to PFD & in Pocket Prevent Entanglement	Tied to PFD & in Pocket Prevent Entanglement	Tied to PFD or Packraft Prevent Entanglement	Salt Water Protected In Transparent Bag
Navigation Device (GPS)	Tied to PFD or Packraft Prevent Entanglement	Tied to PFD or Packraft Prevent Entanglement	In Transparent Bag	Salt Water Protected In Transparent Bag
Tide Schedule or Chart	n/a	n/a	n/a	Required
Sweet Water Reserve	Normally not required	Normally not required	Normally not required	Required

Table 10: Packrafting Safety Considerations

The packraft is not designed to withstand an elevated pressure. Therefore, we open the packraft valve and reduce the pressure after taking the packraft out of the water especially on sunny days. While floating on the water the cooling effect of the water is normally sufficient to maintain the pressure within the design limits also on sunny days.

Instead of lifting the packraft out of the water we sometimes leave the packraft in the water and tie it to a tree or other solid object.

1.11.13.21.8 Packrafting near Glaciers

Glaciers are instable therefore we never get too close to the glacier edge or large blocks of floating ice. Collapsing glaciers shoot fragments of ice all directions that can severely injure or even kill.

A calving glacier may cause a tsunami wave depending on the magnitude of the collapse. Such a wave is not particular harmful in open water some distance from the glacier edge away. But at the shore a dangerous tsunami wave may form. Therefore, we closely monitor the water of glacier lakes and fjords with glaciers and minimize the time we spend at or near the shore of a potentially calving glacier.



Picture 215: Glaciar Lucia at Lago Bergues at the northern edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefiled. Image: Jan Dudeck

When a high wave approaches while paddling we turn the packraft into the wave and paddle towards the wave away from shore.

When camping at a glacier lake we make sure to pitch our tent high enough above the lake.

1.11.13.21.9 Packrafting in Fjords

In the Patagonian fjords we experienced tidal currents of up to 4 km/h and sea charts indicate currents of 5 kn (9 km/h) and more. Especially at narrows tidal currents accelerate and may become dangerously turbulent. Strong tidal currents can restrict the suitable time windows for packrafting. Therefore, when packrafting in fjords we monitor the sea level (if rising or falling tide), calculate the high and low tide time based on our observations and tide schedules to predict the “flipping time” of tidal currents (slack water). Based on maps, satellite images and information from locals we anticipate the orientation and strength of tidal currents and identify critical areas e.g. narrows with particular strong or potentially turbulent tidal currents to time the passage of such areas accordingly.

The water of fjords is salty and not suitable for drinking. Therefore, we always carry enough sweet water for at least one day and one night as a weather change may suddenly force us out of the fjord.

When packrafting fjords we protect our electronics carefully from corrosive salt water. That’s another good reason why we place the navigation device and the InReach inside a transparent waterproof bag when packrafting fjords.

Beaches form because the sea or at least waves regularly flood them. This makes beaches treasonous camp sites. Washed up trees and other floating items on the coastline normally reveal how far the water occasionally rises. Therefore, we read the different flood lines carefully before selecting a camp site. A tide schedule helps us to understand if we are close to a higher spring tide (around full moon and new moon) or if the high tide is below average (neap tide around half-moon). A reliable weather forecast less if a storm with high waves is approaching. Only if conditions are favorable, we occasionally pitch our tent at the edge of the beach should we do not find a more suitable spot higher up.

Flat open areas near a river mouth may appear inviting for camping on satellite images but we learned that such areas are often swampy and neither suitable nor save for camping.

We generally prefer a camp site 2 or 3 Meter above the high tide sea level. Therefore, we normally seek a camp site behind the first line of trees in slightly sloped terrain ideally near a river mouth (but since we normally carry enough sweet water, we may also choose a location without sweat water nearby). A beach might offer more light and nicer views, but we prefer for the night the wind protection of trees and a save elevation above the sea level.



Picture 216: Hanging tend setup behind the first line of trees. Image: Jan Dudeck

The dense vegetation of the Patagonian fjords makes it sometimes hard to find a suitable spot to pitch a tent. A machete might be needed to clean a spot for a tent. Alternatively, hammocks or hanging tents may be carried when paddling the Patagonian fjords. We developed a suspended floor for out tent to sleep when needed hanging in between trees.

If we are near a settler with pastures, we normally camp there. For the track files we analyzed all shores along the packrafting routes and documented settlements and other locations that appear suitable for camping.

1.12 Understanding your Motives

To be issued.

1.12.1 Explore and Discover

Our ancestors were hunter-gatherers that had to be constantly on the move to collect the next meals and to pursue promising prey. And our ancestors walked seeking new homelands. They made it out of Africa and eventually populated all corners of the world on foot. Being an enduring walker and a curious explorer was an evolutionary advantage in our ancestor's development. This evolutionary heritage is deeply coded into our genetics and expressed in a body that is perfectly designed for walking. And this genesis equipped us with appetite for the unknown.

We are the descendants of these restless walkers and this origin shapes us more than we might recognize in our current daily life. The technological revolution of the 20th century dramatically changed today's necessity to walk but it did not change our body or our mind. Our body remains the highly efficient bio-mechanical machine that moves with endurance and agility in diverse environments. And our mind has an innate curiosity that makes us notorious explorers. Hiking long and far into unknown terrain satisfies both instincts: the desire to move and the desire to discover even if our today's survival does not any more depend on it.

When I use the words "explore" and "discover", I use them in a different sense to which they were historically used. I use "to explore" without implicating "to exploit" and I use "to discover" without including "to expose". The famous explorers of the past centuries were not (just) driven by curiosity but by the desire to take ownership of the discovered or at least to exploit it. Being a sustainable explorer and discoverer on the GPT limits you to a brief visit and all can you take with you are memories and pictures.

And being a sustainable guest means that you worry about what you leave: no trace on the land but positive memories with the people you meet.

The appetite to explore while being on the move is essential to appreciate the GPT. Of cause, you are not the first. You follow trails that others have created but you discover step by step on barely travelled routes that are terra incognito for you. On the GPT you need to move through diverse environments that challenge your endurance and agility and test your willingness to learn and adapt like our ancestors had to learn and adapt to diverse landscapes while populating so different parts of world. And you meet people on the trail that live a quite unique and somewhat ancient way of life. Most inhabitants along the trail rely on livestock for income and purpose of life. Horses and dogs are their essential servants and companions. Distances are measured in days on horseback and not in kilometers or miles. And mountain lions are not exotic animals that they wish to spot but an imminent threat for their animals. Therefore, sharing time with these people gives you the opportunity to taste a different way of life making a hike on the GPT a cultural exploration.

But if your curiosity has dimmed, then you will be disappointed with the GPT because this trail will not match your expectations. It's a trail for hikers that wish to be surprised. Starting on the GPT with clear expectations, a detailed plan and a set timeline will poison your journey because this compromises your ability to explore, adapt and learn. And if you do not seek the acquaintance-ship with the inhabitants of the southern Andes then you are misplaced on the GPT because you are just their guest.

Hikers that are driven by pure curiosity are on an "ego-trip" in the best possible sense. They do it just for themselves and not for others. They walk to experience the land and the people without the necessity to prove anything to anyone, neither to themselves nor to others. They don't need to be seen because they just want to see. Therefore, they can follow the trail without worrying who

follows them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. And such hikers can admire without seeking admiration. Curious hikers will chat with the people on the trail to listen their stories undistracted without the urge to make a story. Curiosity is self-sufficient and does not need the attention or applause of others.

1.12.2 Achieve and Compete

For some hikers explore and discover is not enough. They aim for a clearly defined goal, that they either achieve or miss. They want to summarize their achievement in one sentence or in one impressive number. For this they comply with self-imposed rules and restrictions to increase the challenge. And some compete with other hikers like athletes' contest with each other. For these contesters not only their own achievement matters, but how it compares to others. Classic challenges and competitions in the hiking world are:

1. Hiking with connecting footsteps without using motorized means to advance
2. Thru-hiking a complete trail from trail start to trail end with connecting footsteps in one season
3. Competing for the fastest known time (FKT) in such a thru-hike

1.12.2.1 Hiking with Connecting Footsteps

Walking with connecting footsteps means hiking and packrafting on a continuous line without using motorized means to advance. This does not rule out taking a bus or hitchhikeing to get to a resupply town and back. But in this case hikers that apply this principle return to the very same point where they jumped on a bus or car and continue walking where they stopped to create a unbroken line of footsteps. Connecting footsteps also permits flipping the hiking direction or changing the section sequence if

eventually all hiked sections connect with each other. Flipping and changing the sequence can be required when weather and seasonal limitations make a continuous hike in one direction impractical.

For me hiking with connecting footsteps has the following benefits:

- By hiking with connecting footsteps, you reward yourself with discovering the hidden and the unpromoted areas. These over-looked and barely visited regions provide a genuine experience of the land and the people that you normally can't find in the overrun tourist hotspots.

- Walking with connecting footsteps creates the necessary perseverance that carries hikers through hurdles. Without maintaining connecting footsteps someone is more tempted to aboard and take motorized transport around the difficult parts. Overcoming the hurdles makes the hiking experience intense and creates lasting memories that are recalled years later with gratitude and pride.

- Walking continuously creates the rhythm and "flow" that prevents fatigue. When hiking just a few days exhaustion is natural because the body and the mind are not used to it. But being on the move with an appropriate pace for weeks and months changes this. Then your body digests a healthy portion of footsteps each day with ease.

- By not constricting your journey to the few hyped locations you minimize your time in transit. Instead of spending a good part of your time in between trails you can spend most of your travel time on trials. This is particular true in Patagonia where the distances between the famous national parks are large, where driving is slow and public transportation often infrequent.

- By spending your admiration and money in the overlooked and unpromoted areas you often have a positive impact on the rarely visited communities. That's rarely the case when following the hordes of visitors to tourist hotspots that suffer from the crowds.

For all these reasons I developed and published the GPT as an interconnected network. But when hiking on the GPT with connecting footsteps two limitations must be considered:

1. If you aim for connecting footsteps on the GPT have in mind that you need some motorized transport to resupply. In the north is a long stretch without villages and shops on the trail. On the roughly 750 km from the start of section GPT05 to the finish of section GPT12 you will find only 4 or 5 mini-shops that may help to stretch your food reserves but that are unreliable for a planned full restock. Therefore, the only practical way to resupply in this area is leaving the trail by bus or by car, shop and rest in a town a good distance off the trail and return to the same point by bus or by car to continue hiking.

2. When hiking but also when packrafting several lakes on the route are to be crossed by ferry[56]. The Lago General Carrera and the Lago O'Higgins are large and getting around these lakes on foot requires several hundred kilometres of road walking; nothing that I consider and suggest doing.

[56] These two lakes are also critical obstacles when packrafting. Both lakes are infamous for the frequent furious wind and the resulting huge waves. Even the rather big ferries get sometimes suspended when heavy wind makes the passage unsafe. Crossing the Lago General Carrera and the Lago O'Higgins with a packraft on the regular ferry route is suicidal but both lakes have a narrow that is just 3 km to 4 km wide. At these narrows each lake may be crossed in about one hour by packraft but only during one of the rare calm moments. If you are a highly experienced packrafter that considers crossing both lakes by packraft expect to be stuck for several days on the shore till the wind calms down and you can attempt a crossing. And if you run out of luck and are low on food you may need to return on foot without having attempted a crossing by packraft.

These two limitations are irrelevant for hikers that walk with connecting footsteps to explore and discover. Even if ferries technically break the connecting footsteps they do not alter the character of such a long hike. But these limitations are bad news for achievers that ban themselves from using any motorized means en route to have a catchy story to tell after their return.

A personal note: We are drawn to the remote and overlooked areas to investigate barely known routes. But in places where the only option is a primary road we feel no remorse when taking a bus or hitchhiking. In such places we are happy to fast forward and gain time for the next exploration route ahead of us.

By including primary roads into the route network I do not instruct anyone to walk such roads. I simply show the available options and if there is no nicer trail then I incorporate the existing roads that connect the more attractive trail sections. Make your choice and decide yourself if walking these bits and pieces or not. You do not need to prove anything to anyone if you hike your hike.

1.12.2.2 Thru-Hiking the GPT

A specific challenge when hiking with connecting footsteps is a thru-hike. Thru-hiking is walking an established long-distance trail end-to-end with continuous footsteps typically in one direction in one season. I already discussed the feasibility of such a challenge in chapter 1.6 Thru-Hiking the GPT on page 55 and I do not encourage anyone to hike the GPT with this objective. I'm even more sceptical when competing for the "fastest known time" (FKT).

Hikers that anyway contemplate with a thru-hike should read the statements of GPT hikers with thru-hiking experience or that made thru-hiking attempts of the GPT. For this read in the Appendix how Lauren Reed (Neon) and Christine Thürmer (German Tourist) experienced the GPT (both Triple-Crown thru-hikers) and see other Blogs and Online Publications on page 1214.

1.12.3 Publicity, Promote and Publish (To be issued)

To be issued.

1.12.4 Walking Away and Leaving Behind (To be issued)

To be issued.

[57] Interestingly both films feature hikers, that did not Thru-Hike a trail and probably did not seriously aim for it.
[58] The Argentine town Ushuaia successfully advertises itself as the most southern city on the planet and many ambitious hiking and cycling tours start or finish for this reason here. But the Chilean village Puerto Williams on the Isla Navarino is about 6 minutes of latitude further south.

1.13 Critics and Concerns (To be issued)

1.13.1 Environmental Impact (To be issued)

To be issued.

1.13.2 Naming

When I started publishing the route in 2014 I opted for the English name “Greater Patagonian Trail”. After two or three years some Chileans remarked that a Spanish name would have been more appropriate while others suggested a name in an indigenous language (Mapudungun) like the Tearora in New Zealand (Maybe soon). Both suggestions are valid but primarily for practical reasons I opted to leave the name unchanged because the initial designation was already established and used in numerous publications.

In hindsight the English name seams not inappropriate to me. It signals correctly that this publication origins outside of Chile. It also maintains the option, that national or regional administrators in Chile may select parts of the GPT route network to become official trails, by clarifying right-of-way questions and republishing these public trails under Spanish name(s) or designation(s) in Mapudungun. This would maintain the necessary distinction between the larger informal route network (GPT) and the officially recognized public trails.

1.14 Code of Conduct on the GPT

The trail leads mostly through unspoiled wilderness with little visible human intervention. And where you meet some settlers or herdsmen you are normally welcome and get treated as honorable guest. To maintain this relationship I plead to all hikers to follow the below code of conduct:

- Do not make camp fires where legally banned or denied by land owners. Open fires are strictly prohibited in national parks in Chile and Argentina and severe penalties are applicable. Wildfires are the biggest concern of park ranges and the main motive to ban over-night stays and to restrict access to remote parts of national parks. Also land owners fear wild fires that may destroy their property and often permit a traverse only if no camp fires are made. Therefore, be a respectful and pleasant guest by complying with the rules set by your hosts.

- Light camp fires only where permitted and in circumstances when it is completely safe to do so. This might be the case when you are a guest at a *puesto* or in a shelter with an established fire place. Under no circumstances light a fire in dry areas or when wind can spread the fire. Use only small branches of dead wood and put the fire out with plenty of water before leaving or going to sleep. Be aware that the smell of smoke severely disturbs wildlife therefore avoid making fires in areas with wildlife. Wild fires caused severe destruction since human arrival and remain the biggest hazard for the preservation of this region.

- Respect the rights of the landowners. Don't dispute over the right-of-way but ask kindly for permission to pass. If you meet people on horses on a narrow trail step to the side and let them pass first. It's for your own safety.

- Leave all gates in the condition that you found them. If a gate was closed, close it after you. If a gate was open, leave it open. Be sure to note how the gates are held as some techniques are unique. Under no circumstances cut or damage fences.

- If you pass an isolated *puesto* or homestead farm closely it is a good practice to whistle or make yourself heard. This alerts both humans and animals that someone is passing and can avoid a great deal of unpleasantness. Better wake up a snoozing dog with a safety margin then being caught by this dog while trying to sneak past.

- Near *puestos* or settlers homes you often find suitable spots to camp because the grazing animals create and maintain nice patches of pasture. If the location is inhabited always introduce yourself and ask first for permission before pitching your tent. This also calms down the dogs and might give you the opportunity to purchase some extra food.

- Be a pleasant guest and do not abuse the hospitality of the people along the trail and pay fairly for what they share with you. Using a trail or staying overnight in an unmaintained location should be free of charge but if you get invited to a meal or use a camp ground that was installed by local settlers for hikers pay what you are asked for. If not asked for money pay anyway what you would get charged in similar occasions. Don't ruin the hiker's reputation by misusing the generosity of humble people. There are NO “trail angels” on the GPT.

- If you are caught by severe weather you may knock on doors and ask kindly for shelter. Helping in such situations is part of the ethics in the mountains. Don't enter locked *puestos* except in life-threatening emergencies. This is also for your safety since poorly ventilated and uninhabited buildings pose a Hanta virus infection risk. Some *puestos* are intentionally open or have an open part and a locked part. In this case you may utilize the open part if needed.

- Leave no trace and in particular no litter. All packings that can be carried with content must be returned empty. This applies also to toilet paper; carry or burry it. Do not follow the example some fellow hikers, *arrieros* and settlers that occasionally lack the consciousness to keep the land tidy. If feasible collect trash that you find on the trail and carry it to the next village or burry it.

If you read this Code of Conduct and consent with it note the Track File Unlock Code 3: 663252. This will be one of the keys to open the track files.

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1.15.1 Comply with the Code of Conduct

Condition 1 of 6: Comply with the above outlined Code of Conduct while being a Guest on the GPT. Do not assume that you have the right to walk all published routes of the GPT but do what is in your power to be a pleasant guest.

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Comment: While investigating and hiking the Greater Patagonian Trail we learned about numerous people that died in bad weather or accidents on these trails or that simply disappeared without a trace; *arrieros*, indigenous people, settlers, tourists, soldiers. Some of these deaths are remembered with memorial stones or plaques that an attentive hiker can see along the trail. Of other deaths only memories are left and locals tell visitors to warn them. So, this trail network does not only provide unforgettable memories; this trail also takes lives.

The tragedy of Antuco is one example. In 2005 a company of about 400 soldiers were ordered to march 20 km along a gravel road of section GPT09; 45 soldiers never made it to the finish and died in a snow storm. Just a few kilometers up the same road is the "Piedra del Indio". When asking locals about the origin of this name we were told that some years ago two Pehuenche families were surprised by bad weather and seeked some protection at this boulder. Days later they were found dead. When walking this road on a sunny day it appears hardly conceivable that at the very same spot someone froze to death but the memorials witness it.

During our recent investigation of GPT32 in the area of Lago Caro we were surprised by a search team. A local settler fell in a river while trying to get to his home on horseback. When we left the area the body was not found yet.

Before crossing Cordon Caulle on section GPT19 a settler told us about a girl that some years ago disappeared without a trace. The Cordon Caulle is a vast open volcanic field next to the volcano Puyehue that you can be roamed freely. But this plateau is surrounded by extremely dense Valdivian rain forest. Crossing this forest without a trail is an extremely demanding ordeal and you barely advance a few hundred meters per hour. It is assumed that this hiker got disoriented while trying to walk back down but did not find the trail in the forest. Stuck in this engulfing forest a disabling accident is enough to be never seen again.

So fatal accidents are not just a hypothetical hazard on these trails; they happen more frequently than you might assume. Therefore I outline in chapter 1.9 on page 148 numerous hazards and risks that hikers of the GPT are exposed to. This listing is not exhaustive and the recommendations suggested to reduce the risk are not complete nor always applicable.

Condition can deteriorate quickly and the fact that a route was hiked or paddled safely in the past does not mean that this is safe in the future. Each hiker must constantly assess conditions himself and must not only rely on this this documentation or the track files for his safety.

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Comment: You are very welcome to share and publish your experience on this trail network. When you do so, please refer in your personal publication to this trail as the "Greater Patagonian Trail" or "GPT" and link to the wikiexplora article for further information. I find most such blogs very useful and informative and even the most detailed Hikers' Manual does not replace the views and opinions of others. I took many lessons learned from such blogs and this Hikers' Manual would not be what it is now without the publications of others.

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- Fundraising while using the name "Greater Patagonian Trail"
- Using this document and the related trail files to create maps or guidebooks for sale or to organize guided commercial tours and for-profit expeditions

Comment: My objective with publishing the Greater Patagonian Trail is the protection and preservation of this land. At first some-one might think that not publishing anything at all is the best safeguard but I came to the conclusion that a sustainable use is the most promising protection. If the current residents retreat and sell off their land then logging and mining companies may take over especially if no concerned public is watching. Therefore, the future of this land is less at stake if the current residents can make a living with a combination of farming and sustainable tourism by living of the land without consuming the land.

But of cause, tourism hype can be damaging as well, in particular if it attracts people that don't make the effort to truly understand the nature of this trail network. Especially in this early stage of the development of this trail even occasional inappropriate behaviour by individual hikers can cause lasting damage. It can upset landowners and cause distrust by settlers who may deny

the right-of-way to future hikers. The current development of the US long-distance trails is a warning.

Therefore, I opted for the cautious publication of this trail that stresses the fragility of this region and clearly outlines and explains the Code of Conduct. To not get into a conflict of interests myself I decided to publish this material free of charge and not pursue a commercial use, neither by selling this Hikers' Manual nor the GPT track files nor by doing fundraising. This choice frees me to not maximize publicity and to also discourage potential visitors that might be unprepared or lack the appropriate attitude.

This should make it perceivable why I do not permit using my work and the name "Greater Patagonian Trail" for fundraising without my prior written consent:

- Fundraising naturally needs to start before the endeavour. This normally means that the fundraiser has little to no actual knowledge of the region and the route network when starting to promote. That this easily results in an improper presentation needs no further explanation.
- Fundraising naturally aims to maximize publicity. This requires a short and simple message that is often too short and too simple. This potentially attracts unprepared crowds in consequence.
- Fundraising needs a spectacular objective to be successful. Just "walking on the GPT" is too little for a successful campaign. It needs to be the first Thru-Hike ever or if this was already done, doing it faster. You name it. That such objectives do not fit with an informal route network should be comprehensible.

If you believe that you have a valid reason to use my work and the name "Greater Patagonian Trail" in a fundraising campaign than contact me FIRST. I'm not by principle against any fundraising. I actually support selected campaigns like www.her-

odyssey.org of Bethany and Lauren. Both are very mindful hikers who became indispensable contributors and consultants for the GPT. What I strongly discourage is using the name "Greater Patagonian Trail" in a fundraising campaign without prior consultation and consent. Should you do it, don't be surprised if I publish clarifying comments and inform sponsors about such an unauthorized use.

If you consider this condition inappropriate than I encourage you to develop your project from start to finish yourself. Plan your route yourself, name it differently without plagiarizing the work of others and do it with preservation in mind. Google Earth is free of charge, Chile and Argentina are free countries.

Guided commercial tours and for-profit expeditions that cross private properties can quickly change the acceptance and the relationship with the landowners. Imagine a group of people crossing unasked a private property and the owner recognizes that someone is earning money with it. He will quickly try to get his share by demanding a "trail-toll". If he is not interested in earning some extra cash than he may feel abused and may deny the right-of-way to all hikers in the future. Therefore, such commercial tours must be particularly sensible and selective in choosing the appropriate area and route for their endeavour.

The same applies to hiking maps and guidebooks for sale. Only undisputed routes should be included in such a commercial publication as hikers will take such a map or book as evidence that they have the right-of-way and the privilege to be there. Clarifying the legal status of all these routes is a massive task as people along the trail make valid and inappropriate claims. It would need a team of lawyers that tediously check laws, land registers and land sales contracts for this vast region.

If you are committed to a non-commercial use only use the Track File Unlock Code 6: 911213.

1.15.5 Provide Feedback

Condition 5 of 6: By using this document and the related track files you commit yourself to provide a feedback to the hiked sections. This feedback shall consist of:

- Provide updates and alerts in the Wikiexplora section articles during the hike
- Adding yourself to the Section Log in the Wikiexplora section articles during the hike
- Recording your entire hike by GPS and providing this record after the hike

As outlined before the GPT is not a public trail and no agency or foundation cares for this trail network. Therefore, the feedback from hikers is essential to alert other hikers about recent changes and to keep the GPT documentation updated. Especially this early in the development when feedback from all hikers is relevant. See chapters 1.7.2.3 When being on the GPT: Contribute on page 78 and 2.4.5 Contributing to the Wikiexplora Section Article on page 588 for more information and detailed instructions.

Before requesting the track files sign up on Wikiexplora and add yourself to the track file request list. This entry shows that you actually signed up, that you understood how to edit a wiki and that you will be able to provide your feedback on Wikiexplora during your hike. If you do not want to disclose your name to protect your privacy you can use an alias when signing up on Wikiexplora and when adding yourself to the track file request list.

A more detailed instruction how to contribute on Wikiexplora can be found in chapter 2.4.5 Contributing to the Wikiexplora Section Article on page 588.

Send your GPS records by email directly to the author of this Manual using the email gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com 🌎.

If you agree to provide updates on Wikiexplora during your hike and to send a full GPS record after your hike to the author use the Track File Unlock Code 7: 123305.

Should you feel uncomfortable to create a full GPS record or to collaborate on Wikiexplora than you are welcome to make an alternative proposal how you wish to contribute. There are many ways to support this trail project, people have diverse skills and every hiker is invited to collaborate with his abilities and competencies. Therefore, if you do not want to commit yourself to one of these conditions state your reasons and suggest an alternative by email BEFORE promising something that you are unwilling or uncomfortable to do.

1.15.6 Fair Use Notice

Condition 6 of 6: This document and the related trail files contain copyrighted material. The use of this material has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. Such material is made available in the believe that this constitutes a “fair use” of any such copyrighted material. This document and the related trail files are distributed without profit.

1.15.7 Access to the GPT Track Files

Should you agree to these six Terms and Conditions, then:

1. Sign up on Wikiexplora
2. Add yourself to the track file request list either with your true name or an alias,
3. Send an email to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com that:
   - Expresses your consent with all six Terms and Conditions,
   - Briefly outlines your plans for the GPT and
   - Provides your Wikiexplora username and your name or alias in the track file request list.

   Optional: Attach a scanned copy of the filled and signed Declaration of Consent. See chapter 0
4. The GPT Track Files on page 30 for more information to this option.

I will than provide a link where you can download the track files. The downloaded zip-file is password protected and requires an Unlock Code to be opened. Read also chapters 0

The GPT Track Files on page 30 and 3.3.3.2 Obtaining and Opening the Track Files on page 1090 the describes how to obtain and apply the eight Track File Unlock Codes to extract the track files from the downloaded zip-file.

1.15.8 Plagiator Awards (To be issued)

1.15.8.1 Plagiator Award 2017 – Secret Compass (To be issued)

To be issued.

1.15.8.2 Plagiator Award 2016 – www.greaterpatagonia.com (To be issued)

To be issued.

1.15.9 Additional Remark to these Terms and Conditions

By publishing this trail network that partially leads over private properties I practically invited hikers to other people's homes. Please understand that this is an immense responsibility that I want to live up to. Therefore, I try what is in my power that this invitation does not get abused.

Also the recent development on other long-distance trails in particular in the US is a warning. A growing number of people use these trails and some believe to have special privileges because they e.g. attempt a thru-hike. This attitude is annoying on a public trail. On an informal route network that relies on the consent of the local population such an attitude can be destructive.

The GPT is a route network still in it's infancy. The fate and the future of this trail is in the hands of the hikers that walk it in the coming years.

2 Terrain and Section Information

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2.1 Choosing Your Route

Imagine you enter an all-you-can-eat restaurant with an ample international cuisine that offers much more than you can possibly eat. Will you quickly grab a plate and start filling it with what appeals to you first? Or do you take your time and walk around the entire buffet empty-handed and talk to the chefs first before taking a plate and making your choices? And do you pick your classic favourites, or do you try from to the exotic dishes to taste something new? Also, while eating the savoury food, will you leave some space and appetite for a sweat finish?

You can picture the GPT as such an all-you-can-eat restaurant, just not with a food buffet but with a wild assembly of routes for all kinds of hiking and packrafting preferences. And you have the same options; you may pick a starting point intuitively and make further choice as you go. Or you may walk around the entire buffet first.

And exactly this is, what I attempt with this chapter; tour you around the entire “hiking buffet”, to highlight the different landscapes and routes that you may take. And like a good chef, I explain how they are prepared, what combines well in which order, and I will caution you if an exotic dish is loved by some but hated by others. Of cause, I will not fill your plate on your behalf, but I will certainly use words and pictures to tempt you for my favourites.



Picture 217: GPT33H Torres de Avellano. Image: Jan Dudeck

Also, the ample nature of the GPT makes it beneficial to take several turns around “hiking buffet” to look at the route network from different perspectives. A simple linear explanation will not serve its purpose. I hope you join me now on my explanatory tour round the “hiking buffet” but feel free to skip out once you found what you are looking for.

2.1.1 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions

In Table 11 on the next page, I provide my suggestion of what I consider the most attractive choice for a single season hike on the GPT. If you have a full season, then attempt to hike or packraft a good number of the sections classified as “Recommended”. For the remaining time pick additional sections of the category “Consider”.

Different suggestions are made for hikers and packrafters. The northern half of the GPT is a real delight for hikers but packrafting gear is more burden than benefit in this area. Therefore, packrafters should skip the northern part and focus on sections where a packraft can be deployed frequently. This is the case on the central and southern part of the GPT where packrafting is epic. So, make your choice based on your method of travel (hiking or packrafting).

The GPT currently offers enough routes to easily fill three full seasons with hiking or up to five full seasons with a combination of packrafting and hiking and this without repeating trails and packrafting routes. So, should you fall in love with this region you may dedicate more than one season to the GPT especially if you aim to hike and paddle the entire length of this route network in a multi-season section-hike. If you do this, then you should consider hiking at least one season without carrying a packraft but returning other seasons with packrafting gear to experience the full diversity of Greater Patagonia. In Table 11 I state for each area what method of travel (hiking or packrafting) is more attractive.

Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions					
Section Group		**Single-Season Section-Hike**		**Multi-Season Thru-Hike**	**Benefit of Packrafting**
Sections	**Group Code and Name**	**Hiking**	**Packrafting**	**Preferable Travel Method**	
GPT01 to GPT04	A: Precordillera	Consider	No	Hiking	Only Burden (1)
GPT05 to GPT09	B: Zona Arrieros	**Recommended**	Consider	Hiking	Deployable (2)
GPT10 to GPT16	C: Zona Pehuenche	**Recommended**	Consider	Hiking	Deployable (2)
GPT17 to GPT22	D: Lagos Chilenos	**Recommended**	**Recommended**	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT23 to GPT26	E: Lagos Argentinos	Consider	**Recommended**	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT27 to GPT30	F: Sector Palena	Consider	**Recommended**	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT29 to GPT31	G: Aysen Norte	No	**Recommended**	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT32 to GPT36	H: Aysen Sur	Consider	Consider	Hiking or Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT37 to GPT40	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1	Consider	Consider	Hiking or Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT41 to GPT46	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2	Consider	Consider	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)
GPT47 to GPT50	K: Magallanes	No	No	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)
GPT60 to GPT69	L: Tierra del Fuego	No	No	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)
GPT70 to GPT75	M: Sector Yelcho	Consider	Consider	Hiking or Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT76 to GPT78	N: Fiordos Norte	Consider	Consider	Hiking or Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
GPT80 to GPT82	O: Campo de Hielo Norte	No	No	Packrafting	Required (5)
GPT90 to GPT92	P: Fiordos Sur	No	No	Packrafting	Required (5)
-	Q: Huella Andina	No	No	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)

Table 11: Zone Hiking and Packrafting Recommendation

Comments to Benefit of Packrafting	
(1)	A packraft cannot be used on any section of this group. Therefore, carrying a packraft is not recommended.
(2)	A packraft can only be used on comparable short distances on these sections. Therefore, the benefit of carrying a packraft is limited when traversing the entire section group. A packraft may be beneficial when exploring specific areas around lakes.
(3)	A packraft can be used on some sections. Therefore, carrying a packraft is beneficial.
(4)	A packraft can be used on substantial distances of these sections. Therefore, carrying a packraft is highly beneficial.
(5)	A packraft is required for a traverse of these sections. Therefore, carrying a packraft is essential.

Table 12: Comment to Benefit of Packrafting

In chapter 2.1 Choosing Your Route I provide an overview to the GPT from a **bird's eye perspective**.

In the following chapter 2.2 Choosing Your Sections I dive deeper into detail and assist in an **educated preselection of sections**.

In chapter 2.3 Section Groups I describe the character of each **subregion or section group**. This description hopefully affirms or questions a preliminary choice.

And in chapter 2.5 Sections (To be updated) **detailed information to each section** is provided. Currently, there is a summary table, a satellite image map and elevation profile provided to each section. A more detailed description has been issued to some sections only. Hikers that enjoy writing and documenting are welcome to contribute section descriptions for this chapter.

2.1.2 Diversity of Greater Patagonia

There is **one common misconception** amongst travelers that plan a journey to Patagonia: **As more south as better**. **This is simply not the case.** I fell in this trap myself before exploring Greater Patagonia step by step. My imagination of Patagonia was shaped by a couple of iconic images, the fascination for geographic extremes and the successful marketing of a few hyped tourist hotspots. And I regularly encounter this assumption when speaking to prospective hikers. There are indeed some amazing areas in the very south, but the hidden treasures wait further north in the regions that are bypassed by the main flux of tourists. These regions remain overlooked not because of lack of beauty but thanks to a lack of advertisement.

So, my first advise before planning your route: Get rid of the idea that you must make it all the way south. Don't follow the crowds but avoid them. Don't get drawn to names you know but go for the unknown. Of cause, this advice will not work for your if you travel to tag off popular "bucket lists" or if you want to show off by listing famous places you have seen. Traversing the *Maule* and the *Araucaria* region does not sound sexy to the general public, but these are my hiking favourites between Santiago de Chile and the southern tip of Americas. So, my suggestion is: Take a fresh blank sheet of paper before drafting your route.

If you now expect me to provide you with my alternative Patagonia-Must-Do-List then I will disappoint you and I do this intentionally. Navigation on the GPT is challenging so is choosing your route. Take your time to read about the geography of the Southern Cone to understand the distinct characters and features of the various sub-regions. From this eagle perspective you may choose your personal route yourself. This will enable you to **select what is appropriate for you and** to **explore the diversity of Greater Patagonia**.

2.1.2.1 Diversity of Greater Patagonia: East to West

Patagonia consists of surprisingly disparate zones. There are vast open plains in the east of Patagonia with a dry and wind battered steppe that spans from the eastern edge of the Andes to the Atlantic coast. The western part of Patagonia, due to the rain shadow caused by the Andes, is in some regards the opposite. In the west you have the rugged and rainy Pacific coast with countless fjords and islands. An impenetrable forest covers most of this land to the west of the Andes. And in between these two unlike areas – in between the dry plains in the east and the humid fjords in the west - tower the Patagonian Andes. Dormant and recently active volcanoes rise into the sky and glaciers cover all higher summits. During previous glacial periods these glaciers grew to a formidable size and carved deep wide valleys into the Patagonian Andes. These valleys are now partly filled by lakes and get drained by powerful rivers. All this is Patagonia and this diversity creates the mystery and magic of this region.

The Greater Patagonian Trail snakes mostly through the southern Andes but also diverts to the west into the Patagonian fjords and descents in to east where the vast plains and the Patagonian steppe begins. Therefore, you can sample the full variety of Patagonia when walking the length of the GPT.



Picture 218: Satellite Image of Patagonia.
Image: Wikipedia/NASA

2.1.2.2 Diversity of Greater Patagonia: North to South

2.1.2.2.1 From Santiago to latitude 35° S (Sections GPT01 to GPT04)

In the northern part of the GPT the Andes are very high with some summits exceeding 6000 m. The mountains passes typically exceed 4000 m of altitude and steep rocky terrain and glaciers impede walking along the main mountain chain close to the continental divide which also forms the border between Chile and Argentina. Therefore, the most northern sections of the GPT are not in the heart of the Andes but climbs through the *Precordillera* (foothills) mainly along the first mountain range next to the Chilean Central Valley. But don't misunderstand *Precordillera* or foothills as low; here the regular route reaches the highest point with 3300 m.

To an altitude of approximately 1500 m to 2000 m you find a semi-desert-like vegetation; above this altitude vegetation is scarce. In summer expect a generally hot and dry climate but be prepared for chilly nights higher up. When starting early in the hiking season (October and November) expect large snow fields in higher areas especially after a snow-rich winter. And when when getting there late in the hiking season (April and May) then heavy blizzards become a serious hazard.

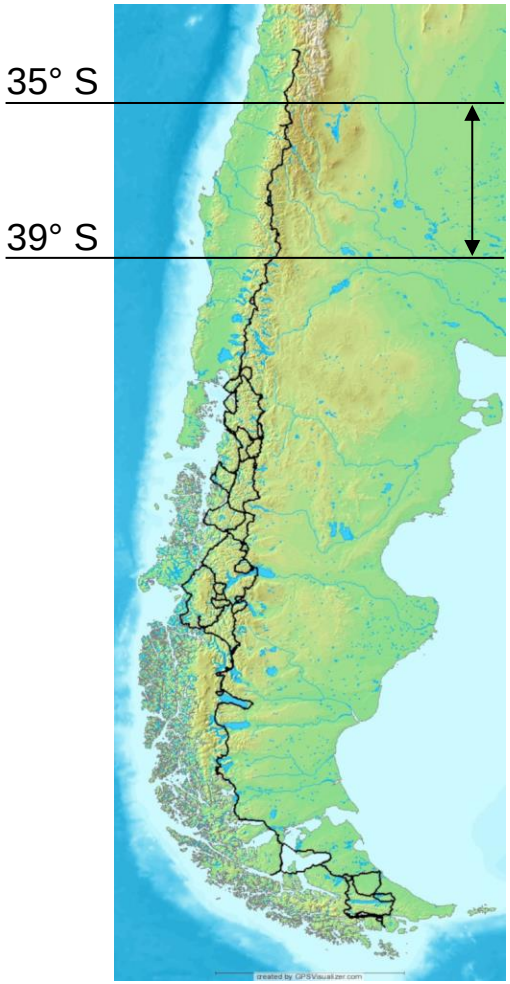


Picture 219: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

2.1.2.2.2 From latitude 35° S to 39° S (Sections GPT05 to GPT12)

South of Curicó the Andes drop in altitude but remain a continuous high mountain range. Summits rarely exceed 4000 m but most mountain passes are still above 2000 m. Here the Andes are much more suitable for hiking. Therefore, the GPT leaves at section GPT05 the *Precordillera* and enters the heart of the Andes and snakes along the continental divide. Here the continental divide constitutes the border between Chile and Argentina so the trail is mostly close to the international limit but remains on the Chilean side.

In this area the GPT branches into many optional routes that provide many hiking choices. You can often opt between lower trails and higher more demanding routes that get you in very remote areas of the Andes. Climate during summer is often quite hot and dry but provides sufficient precipitation to maintain a relatively open forest in the valleys. In spring while the snow is melting torrential rivers make this area nearly impassable for hikers.



Picture 220: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

2.1.2.2.3 South of latitude 39° S (Sections GPT13 to GPT92)

South of Temuco you do not find any more a continuous high mountain chain. Numerous valleys and depressions break partly deep breaches into the main mountains range creating natural low passes between Chile and Argentina. These depressions and valleys were created by the Patagonian Ice Sheet during past ice ages. After the retreat of the ice the depressions and valleys filled with water forming countless lakes (Chilean Lake District). Many of these breaches are lower than 1000 m, some are just 200 m above sea level. These deep gaps in the *cordillera* (mountain range) shift the continental divide in some areas far to the east and cause a partly significant offset between the main mountain range and the continent divide. This offset was one reason for more than a century of border disputes between Chile and Argentina that are still not fully resolved.

The mountains of the Patagonian Andes are like large islands that are separated by these "channels" of lowland. The higher summits reach mostly an altitude of 2000 to 3000 m. Only few peeks exceed the 3000 m mark. Below the tree line frequent rain maintains an impenetrable dense forest (Valdivian temperate rain forest). Due to this geography the GPT goes up and down between the depressions and the island-like mountains and provides an attractive and varied hiking route. Here having a packraft becomes very beneficial, in particular from section GPT17P to GPT39 where such an inflatable boat may be deployed on more than 50% of the distance.



Picture 221: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

2.1.2.2.4 South of latitude 41° 30’ S (Sections GPT22 to GPT92)

South of Puerto Montt the Chilean Central Valley sinks below sea level and the Patagonian fjords begin. These fjords and channels form a vast network of waterways with countless islands and peninsulas. In this rugged region hardly any road or trail was built along the coast. The mountains rise directly out of the sea and rarely leave sufficient space for a land connection and the impenetrable temperate rainforest amplifies this challenge.

In this region of Chile even the most important road; the *Carretera Austral*; has a 50 km wide gap that can only be crossed by ferry. There is not even a horse trail or a foot path that bridges this gap, just impenetrable dense forest, and cragged mountains. Here most land routes are further inland in the valleys and depressions that cut through the Patagonian Andes. Due to this geography the Main Route crosses on section GPT22 into Argentina and does not return to Chile until section GPT26. But hikers and packrafters may choose from Fjord Route (section GPT70 to GPT78) to temporary leave the Main Route and venture through these fjords.

In Central Patagonia hiking is less attractive because several historic horse trails have been upgraded to dirt roads (in particular from GPT28H to GPT31H). But packrafting this area is epic. Here you can paddle over crystal clear lakes and float down mostly calm rivers with impressive mountains on either side of your packraft until reaching on these rivers the Patagonian fjords.



Picture 222: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

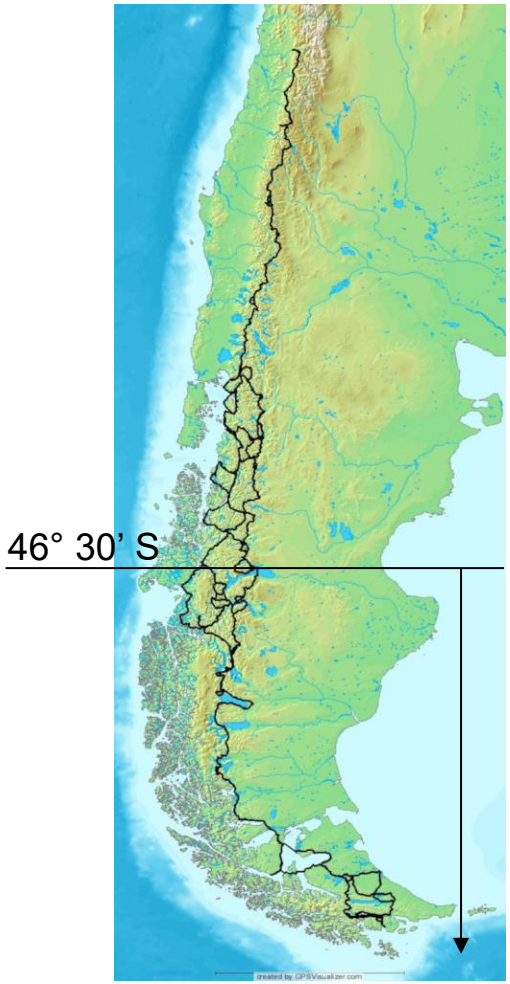
2.1.2.2.5 South of latitude 46° 30’ S (GPT35 to GPT69P & GPT80P to GPT92P)

At the latitude of Lago General Carrera and south of it are two large Icefields, the Northern Patagonian Icefield and the Southern Patagonian Icefields. Here ice completely fills the depressions between the island-like mountains to an altitude of about 1500 m. These are the two remnants of the much larger Patagonian Ice Sheet that covered most of Patagonia during previous ice ages.

In this area the Main Route of the GPT guides though the mountains about 100 km east of the Northern Patagonian Icefield and in particular packrafters have multiple options to vary the route. Here in the South the weather is volatile and distances between settlements are substantial making this region more challenging.

Towards the current southern terminus of the Main Route you reach the eastern edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefield what makes an impressive finish. From GPT38 to GPT46 you can walk and paddle through a rough wind battered land full of milky glacier lakes that get constantly refilled by immense streams of ice that flow down from the Southern Patagonian Icefield.

For expert packrafters with the skills and the appetite for challenging adventures I have added sections GPT80P to GPT92P with demanding expedition routes around the Northern Patagonian Icefield.



Picture 223: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

2.1.3 The Main Route | GPT01 - GPT40

The Main Route consists of sections GPT01 to GPT40 and connects Santiago de Chile with the Southern Patagonian Icefield with a continuous hiking route and additional packrafting options. This route was planned, verified, and published between 2013 and 2017 and other hikers have walked all sections in recent years. This makes the Main Route the primary choice for hikers that look for a reasonable reliable hiking route without too many surprises.

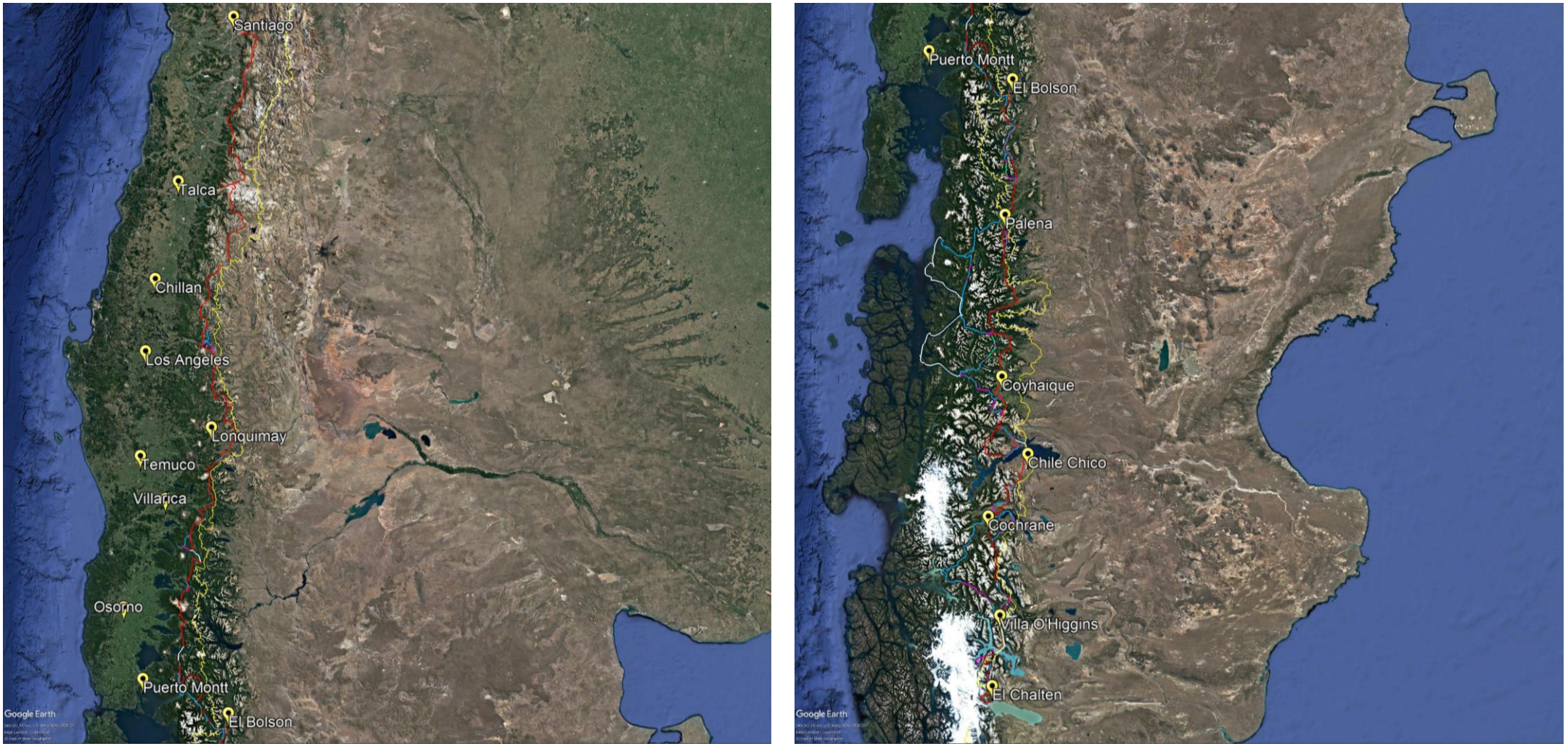
The southern half of the Main Route also offers excellent packrafting. Nearly all water passages of the main route have been paddled by packrafters between 2016 and 2019 based on the GPT publication. This makes good parts of the Main Route also a sound choice for packrafters.

The Main Route from GPT01 to GPT40 is therefore the backbone of the GPT that will attract the majority of hikers and packrafters that come for the first time to Patagonia to travel parts of the GPT route network.

In the chapter 2.2 Choosing Your Sections starting on page 349 I come back to the Main Route and analyse this part of the route network in more detail to facilitate hikers to make an educated choice of sections. The chapters 2.2.14 Packrafting the Main Route | GPT01 - GPT40 on page 412 then adds considerations and advices for packrafting on the Main Route.



Picture 224: Main Route GPT01 to GPT40



Picture 225: GPT Main Route. Left: Northern part from GPT01 to GPT22. Right: Southern Part from GPT23 to GPT40. Image: Google Earth

2.1.4 The Southern Route | GPT41 - GPT69

The Southern Route was planned and published in 2020 and 2021. There are very attractive trails and suitable packrafting routes south of Lago Viedma, but several logistical challenges complicate a traverse with connecting footsteps. Also, several long road walking sections make it advisable to carefully choose the sections that someone really wants to hike.

1. There is **no ferry** service **over Lago Viedma**. Several sight-seeing boats make regular tours from the northern shore to the glacier Viedma but do not continue to the southern shore. This lake is also very wind-exposed and therefore probably not suitable for a packraft crossing. Walking around Lago Viedma means walking 108 km on paved roads and 70 km on a gravel road. This section invites therefore to take a bus to fast-forward on the paved road and to just walk the barely used gravel road the southern of this lake.

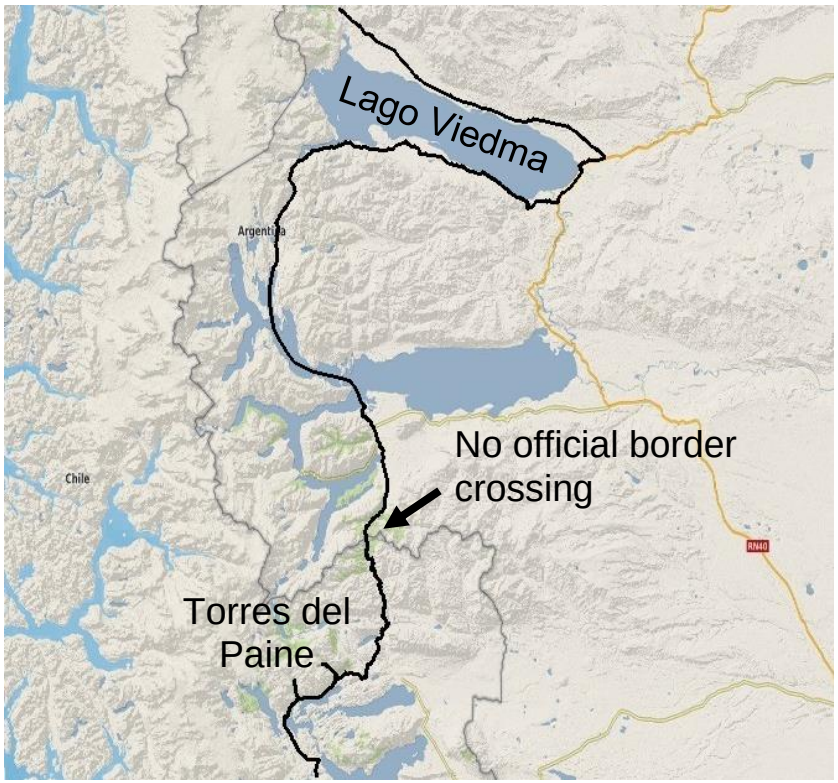
2. There is **no legal border crossing between Argentina and Chile on the GPT routes** that connect Lago Argentina with Torres del Paine. You might try to apply for an expedition permit but this seems utterly complicated. A scientific expedition has better chances to get such a permit, but an individual hiker will struggle with two national administrations that are not particular keen on pleasing an individual hiker that wants to walk off the established routes. And crossing the border at a *paso no habilitado* (Spanish term for the “green border” beyond an official border crossing) without a special permit gets you in serious trouble with the authorities and possibly deported.



Picture 226: Southern Route GPT41 to GPT69

Therefore, die-hard thru-hikers that insist on walking with connecting footsteps better walk only to the international border, back-track to the last road, take buses to cross the border at a *paso habilitado* (official border crossing), get at the border the required stamps into the passport, resupply and walk from the other country to the same point at the international border (connecting without crossing). This adds approx. 60 km of backtracking and 2 or 3 days of bus-travel and town-time but getting an expedition permit will cost more time, money, and frustration.

3. The **Torres del Paine** national park became overrun in recent years. To control the crowd's reservations for camp sites must now be made for specific dates often several months in advance. This makes it un-practical for long-distance hikers to cross Torres del Paine as part of a longer hike (especially during the main season December till February when masses flood this park[59]). Without a reservation, long-distance hikers may bypass the overrun "hiker-highways" to enjoy the epic panorama from a 5 km distance while walking on a less travelled route.



Picture 227: Logistical Obstacles of Southern Route on GPT41 to GPT45

[59] If someone wishes to visit Torres del Paine than this is preferably done outside of the main season. But check carefully the terms and conditions. Some hikers reported that they had to join a guided group to hike in Torres del Paine before the official opening date what made it an expensive and restrictive experience.

4. Several sections of the Southern Route require **long road walks** making them for many hikers less attractive. Therefore, hikers should consider taking buses or hitch-hike on sections GPT41, GPT48, GPT49 and GPT61.

5. The Chilean part of Tierra del Fuego is **partly uninhabited** therefore sections GPT63, GPT64, GPT65H and GPT65P pose a logistical challenge. Resupplies must be carefully planned and pre-arranged for these sections. Most GPT hikers that decide to traverse Tierra del Fuego will therefore opt for sections GPT68 and GPT69 on the Argentine side of this bi-national island where more towns, villages and estancias facilitate resupply.

But nonetheless, the Southern Route offers several epic hikes. These remote routes are tailored for hikers and packrafters that are no novices to this part of the world and that don't mind being beaten up by wind in desolate trail-less terrain.

- GPT42 Glaciar Upsala: A cross country route connects the southern shore of Lago Viedma with the northern shore of Lago Argentina and permits walking to the edge of Glaciar Upsala; an up to 8 km wide river of ice.

- GPT44 Peninsula de Magellanes: Packrafters can take a detour to paddle on Lago Frias and Lago Dickson to three glaciers[60] that rumble down from the Southern Patagonian Icefield.

[60] Glaciar Frias, Glaciar Cubo and Glaciar Dickson

- GPT45 Torres del Paine and GPT46 Seno Ultima Esperanza: Instead of queuing up with other hikers on the mandatory selfie-viewpoints more independent hikers may walk to Glaciar Tyndall and packrafters can continue from there on Lago Tyndall to Rio Serrano and float down to the northern terminus of the fjord Ultima Esperanza and visit more glaciers there.

- GPT47 Seno Skyring: Hikers that don't mind wet feet can traverse on this section a 30 km wide stretch of Turbera, a unique peatland ecosystem (see www.miresofchile.cl).

- GPT50 Cabo Froward: A 93 km long round trip leads from Fuerte Bulnes to the most southern point of mainland of Americas: Cabo Froward. Hikers that sense the weight of history and outstanding geographic locations may appreciate this route.

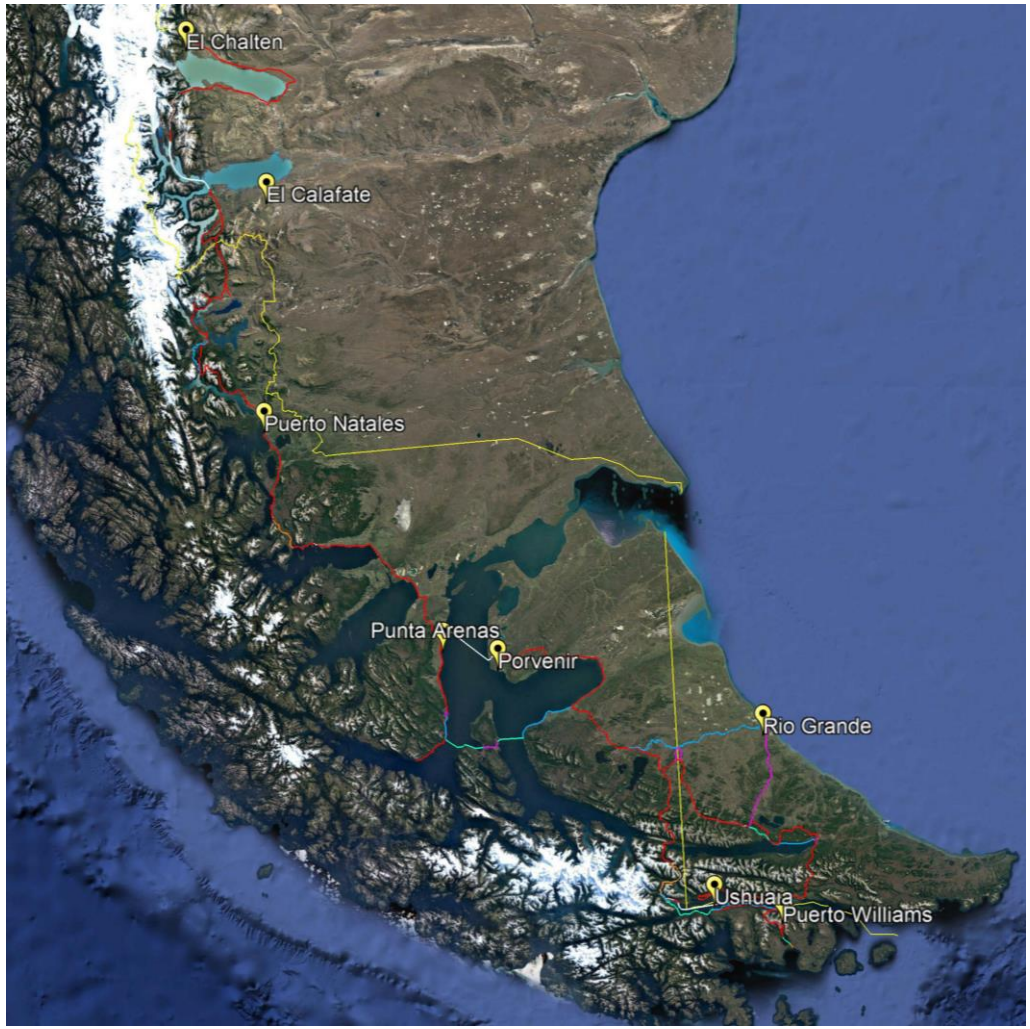
- GPT62 Pampa Guanaco and GPT63 Lago Fagnano: Hikers that enjoyed the Turbera traverse on section GPT47 can get a much larger portion of such landscape on the Chilean side of the island Tierra del Fuego. This wet but rather open landscape invites to long cross-country traverses in the unpopulated south-western sector of this island.

- GPT64 Bahia Yendegaia: Hikers that don't mind feeling lost can walk through the subpolar forest and more Turbera to one of the most isolated outposts of Chile: Bahia Yendegaia. This place is guarded by a few Carabineros and maybe you meet one of the few remaining gauchos that hunt the feral cattle and horses. Hikers may try to get there or return on one of the occasional supply ships that stop on request on their trips between Punta Arenas and Puerto Williams.

- GPT67 Dientes de Navarino: From Puerto Williams you can venture into the mountains on Isla Navarino to eventually reach the shore of Bahia Windhond. There, you finally reached the Drake Passage, the most southern point a hiker can possibly get. From there 1000 km of roaring sea separate you from Antarctica.

- GPT68 Tolhuín and GPT69 Ushuaia: Hikers that want to start or terminate a hike in Ushuaia may walk these two sections (the Argentine town that markets itself successfully as the southernmost city of the world). These two sections avoid the primary roads but also the more desolate and unpopulated areas of Tierra del Fuego making this route more feasible for endurance walkers.

In chapter 2.2.15 Packrafting the Southern Route on page 422 packrafting considerations to the Southern Route are outline.



Picture 228: Southern Route GPT41 to GPT69. Image: Google Earth

2.1.5 The Fjord Route | GPT70 - GPT78P

The 10 sections from GPT70 to GPT78P west of the Main Route connect with the Main Route in multiple locations between GPT21 and GPT27. 6 of the 10 sections do not require a packraft and can be hiked or travelled by ferry. Therefore, hikers that wish to experience the Patagonian fjords on the Chilean side of the Andes may hike sections GPT70 to GPT72 and GPT75 to GPT78H. The Fjord Route provides an alternative to sections GPT22 to GPT26 of the Main Route that are currently in part not suitable for hiking (Status 2021: parts of GPT23 are officially closed and badly overgrown but packrafting GPT23 remains feasible). The Fjord Route is numbered and described in northbound direction because some sections are best travelled northbound.



Picture 229: Fjord Route GPT70 to GPT78

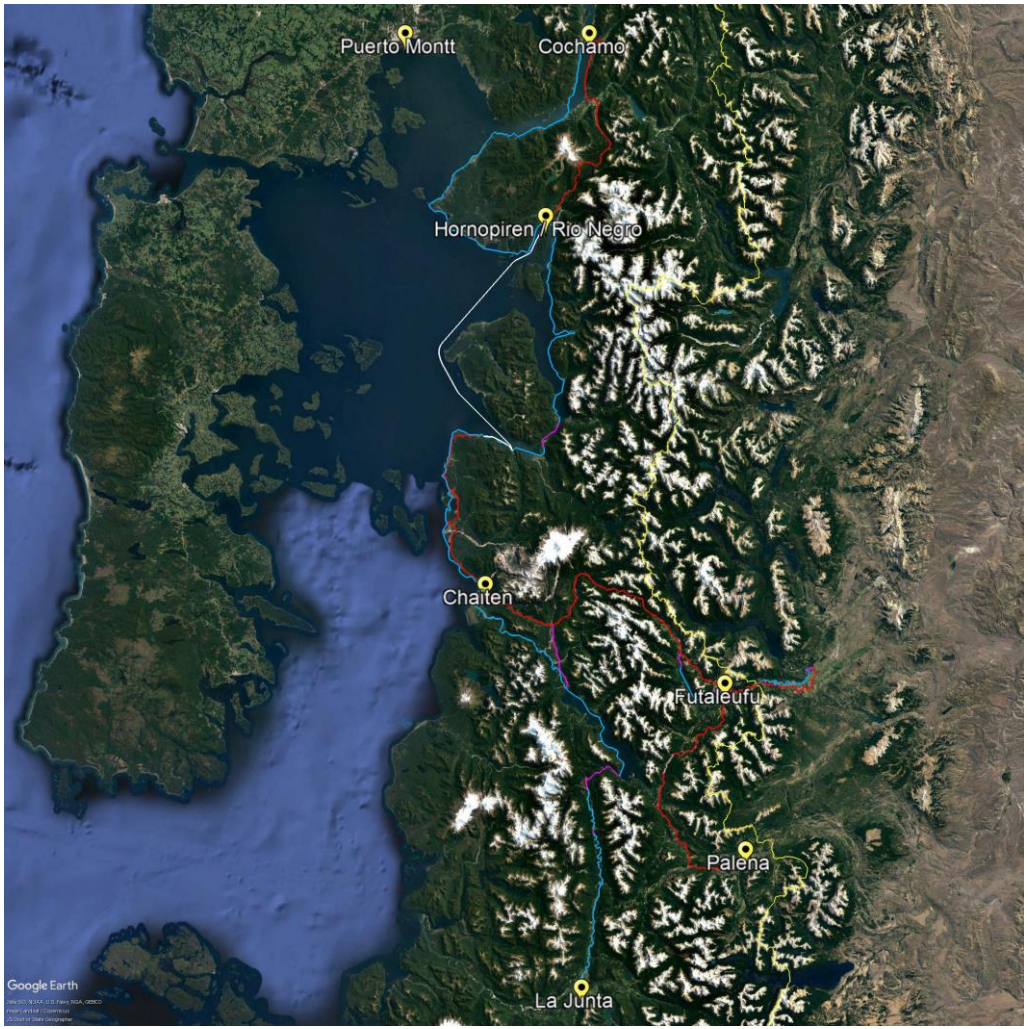
Highlights of the Fjord Route are:

- GPT71 Espolon: On the historic cattle trail in the valley Espolon hikers will meet remotely living settlers and get a taste how Patagonia got populated in the 20th century.
- GPT74P Rio Yelcho: Packrafters can float down 47 km on the very scenic and generally easily navigable river from the Lago Yelcho into the sea next to Chaiten.
- GPT76 PN Pumalin Sur: The coastline north of Chaiten is lightly populated by cattle farmers, fisherman and seafood divers but bypassed by the main flux of travelers because there is no continuous road connection. This makes this route attractive for hikers and packrafters.

- GPT77 PN Pumalin Norte: Packrafters with a more seaworthy decked packraft can paddle the fjords south of Hornopiren and take a relaxing bath in the remote Termas de Cahuelmo.

- GPT78H Fjordo Reloncavi: Hikers can walk the quite demanding but scenic route north of Hornopiren that passes next to volcano Yates and traverses Valdivian rainforest with several thousand years old Alerce trees. Packrafters can either take this hiking route or follow the lightly populated coast and paddle the full length of Fiordo Reloncavi which is the parallel section GPT78P.

In chapter 2.2.16 Packrafting the Fjord Route | GPT70 - GPT78 on page 431 more advice is provided to planning and travelling the Fjord Routes by packraft.



Picture 230: Fjord Route GPT70 to GPT78. Image: Google Earth

2.1.6 The Packrafting Specials | GPT80P - GPT92P

The Packrafting Specials suggest multiple exploration routes along the edges of the Northern Patagonian Icefield. Sections GPT80P to GPT82P are on the eastern continental side of the Northern Patagonian Icefield and Section GPT90P to GPT92P are on the western coastal side of the Northern Patagonian Icefield.

The Packrafting Specials are best described as demanding expeditions into mostly unpopulated wilderness and are substantially more challenging than the packrafting routes of the Main Route. Travelling these sections requires therefore a thoroughly preparation, carrying large amounts of supplies and a robust emergency and rescue plan. Also, for some of these routes packrafters must apply for special permits with local authorities' weeks before departing. These sections are therefore not suitable components of long-distance packrafting trip and primarily of interest for highly experienced packrafters that know Patagonia from past trips.

But parts of these sections and a few optional routes may be added as side trips to a packrafting journey along the Main Route to probe deeper into the wilderness of Patagonia.

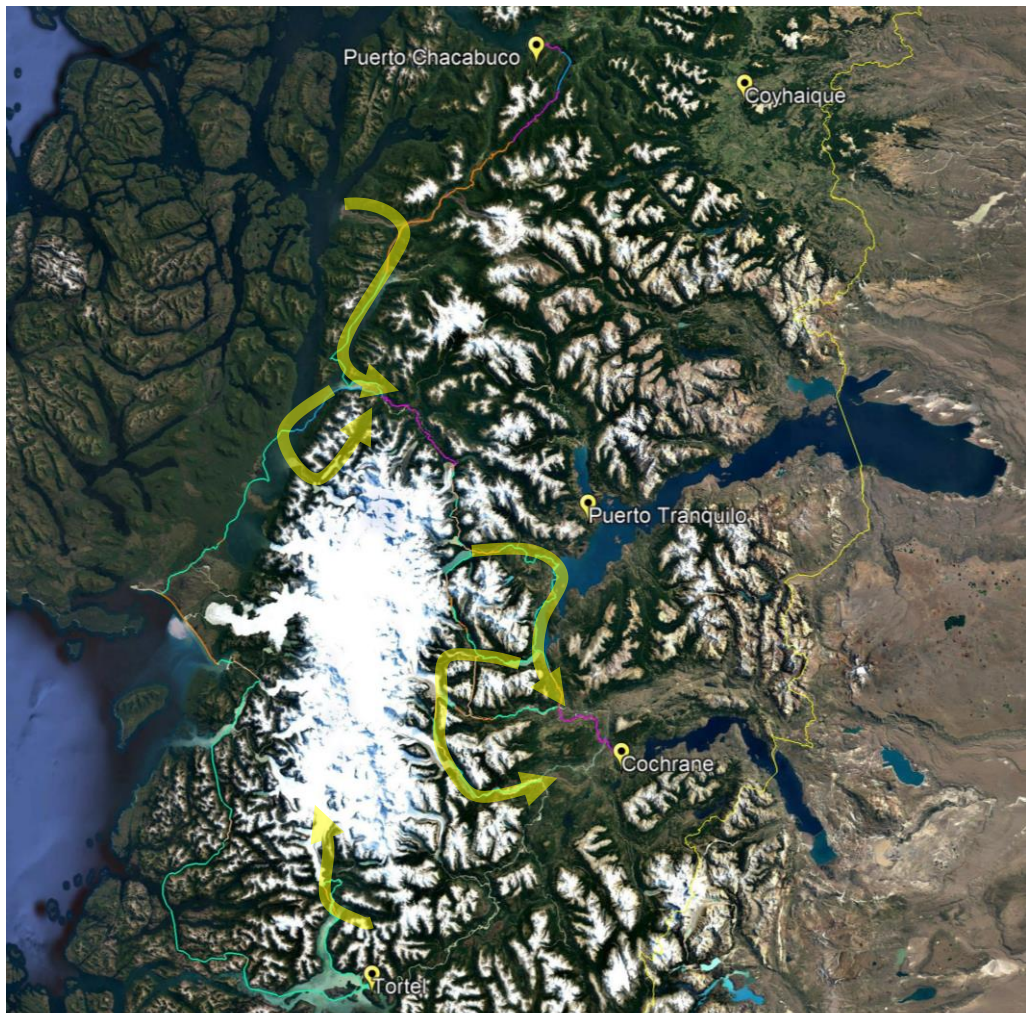
- GPT80P to GPT82P: Instead of attempting a full traverse someone may follow parts of these routes to one of the glaciers on the **eastern edge of the Northern Patagonian Icefield** and return on the same or a similar route.



Picture 231: Fjord Route GPT70 to GPT78P

- GPT90P Volcan Hudson: To my knowledge a subsidized supply boat tours once per month the fjords south-west of Puerto Chacabuco in support of the few remaining settlers in these very remote locations. With a boat transfer to the river mouth of Rio Los Huemules at Estero Elefantes it's "just" a 35 km cross-country walk in the **valley of Rio Los Huemules and Rio Cupquelan** to **Bahia Erasmo** on what seems reasonable walking-friendly terrain. The fjord packrafting from Bahia Erasmo to Bahia Exploradores is demanding but seams feasible with a more seaworthy decked packraft.

- GPT91P Istmo de Ofqui: By combining the Regular Route with Option 1 and 2 someone can assembly a fascinating 5 to 8-day round trip into the unpopulated wilderness north-western of the Northern Patagonian Icefield. Such a mini-expedition get packrafters to the edge of **Glaciar Gualas and Glaciar Reichert**. Land and boat transport may be provided by www.DestinoPatagonia.cl who offer regular tours to Laguna and Glaciar San Rafael.



Picture 232: Selected Packrafting Specials. Image: Google Earth

- GPT 92P Glaciar Steffens: A few settlers live in the valley of Rio Huemules around 25 km north-west of the port-village Tortel. A trail leads from these settlers to the lake into which **Glaciar Steffens** calves gigantic floating islands of ice. The main challenge for packrafters are the 32 km of open and wind exposed fjord packrafting to the river mouth of Rio Huemules. This should only be attempted on a very calm day with a more seaworthy decked packraft. But it should be quite feasible to arrange a boat transfer with some of the residents of Tortel so parts of this route can be done with a standard open packraft.

In chapter 2.2.17 Packrafting the Packrafting Specials | GPT80P - GPT92P on page 437 more suggestions are made to planning and travelling the Packrafting Specials.

2.1.7 The Northern Route | Not Planned

Santiago de Chile is a suitable northern start or finish point and I'm not contemplating with a longer Northern Route[61]. The last metro/subway station Puente Alto provides an easy access and minimizes walking through an overcrowded mega-city. Santiago de Chile as the northern terminus is the point that provides the best possible contrast to the southern terminus of the GPT. It's from metropolis to the back of beyond; it's from semi-desert to Icefields.

The *Precordillera* in the vicinity of Santiago offers some attractive hiking. There is also at least one "hiking pass" to cross the Andes from Chile to Argentina on trails with proper border checkpoints where you get your legally required exit and entry stamps. So, Santiago is not the necessary finish point.

But creating a northbound long-distance trail that starts at Santiago or on a similar latitude in Argentina seems a bigger challenge than creating the GPT; at least if based on the same principles that I applied to the GPT: feasible and attractive for hiking and minimal road walking on routes with transit traffic. North of Santiago the Andes are very high and you either need to climb into really thin air and rocky terrain or you evade to the east or the west into the deserts on either side of the main mountain range. In this areas water deficiency becomes an enormous challenge. In my research I could not find continuous suitable trails and the existing gravel roads are no suitable hiking option for me. Most hikers that set themselves the goal to cross Chile or Argentina on foot took primarily roads and this is what cautions me. But the challenge is out. If you want to pioneer a new long-distance trail: go for it!

[61] Options to Section GPT01 may be added to extended the GPT network to the north-eastern outskirts of Santiago de Chile.

2.2 Choosing Your Sections

The previous chapters provided a brief overview of the GPT route network. This chapter analyses the GPT route network in more detail to facilitate an educated choice. This analysis focuses on specific aspects that are relevant for planning:

- The **planning status** (how reliable and verified the currently published routes are),
- the **elevation** profile,
- the **length** of the sections (distance and required time),
- the recommended **timing** (during which months each section is normally traversable),
- the preferable **travel direction** (northbound and/or southbound),
- the **track terrain composition** (percentage of actual trails, roads, cross-country, bush-bashing and packrafting) and
- the **attractiveness and difficulty** rating of all sections.

This analysis is followed by a discussion of these aspects from a packrafting perspective to complement the previous overview. Hikers that do not plan to deploy a packraft should jump over these four sub-chapters.

This knowledge should enable hikers and packrafters to compose an individually tailored route that matches personal preferences and that fits in the available time frame.

2.2.1 Table and Chart Colour Codes

The complexity of the GPT route network makes a purely verbal description of the GPT difficult. Therefore, plenty of maps, tables, and charts are incorporated into this document. The following colour codes are used in the tables and charts of this document:

Table and Chart Colour Codes				
Hiking	**Packrafting**	**Normally Feasible**	**Caution, Conditionally**	**Not Recommended**
Earth Colour like soil	**Blue** like water	Traffic light **Green**	Traffic light **Yellow**	Traffic light **Red**

Table 13: Table and Chart Colour Codes

2.2.2 Track Colour Codes

The tracks are also colour coded to facilitate an intuitive reading of the satellite image maps in this document. In addition, the line width is used to display track relevance. The very same line colour code applies to the track files display in Google Earth.[62]

I highly recommend obtaining the GPT track files now and to install the track files in Google Earth before reading on. The following chapters will be much more conclusive if looking at the routes in Google Earth while reading.

For further information to the route types and the route display see chapter 3.3.5 Track File Display in Google Earth and on GPS on page 1145.

The track line width and the track line colours in Google Earth and on the satellite maps in this document are outlined in the following table:

Satellite Image Line Codes	
Wide Line ———	Regular route. This is the normally recommended route.
Thin Lines ———	Optional route. These are alternative routes that may either more demanding or less attractive than the regular route.
Yellow Lines	International border between Chile and Argentina.
	YELLOW

[62] The track display on a Garmin Handheld GPS uses a different colour code and different line types due to the different display and background colours.

Satellite Image Line Codes	
Hiking Routes on Land	Land routes for hikers and packrafters.
	RED (Hiking)
Hiking Investigation Routes on Land	Investigation land routes for hikers and packrafters that lack a precise GPS record but that are confirmed to exist and expected to be traversable.
	RED (Hiking) & WHITE (Investigation) = **ROSE**
Ferry and Boat Transfers	Ferries and boat transfers for hikers and packrafters. **WHITE** (Ferry)
Packrafting Routes on Land	Land routes only for packrafters (land access routes to water routes).
	RED (Hiking) & BLUE (Packrafting) = **VIOLET**
Packrafting Investigation Routes on Land	Investigation land routes for packrafters only that lack a precise GPS record but that are confirmed to exist and should be traversable.
	RED (Hiking) & BLUE (Packrafting) & WHITE (Investigation) = **LIGTH VIOLET**
Packrafting Routes on Water	Water routes for packrafters (rivers, lakes, fjords).
	BLUE (Packrafting)
Exploration Routes on Land	Verified exploration land route with a precise GPS record but the uncertainty if a full traverse of the entire section is feasible. One colour for hiking and packrafting.
	RED (Hiking) & YELLOW (Exploration) = **ORANGE**
Exploration Investigation Routes on Land	Investigation exploration land route without a precise GPS record and the uncertainty if a traverse is feasible. One colour for hiking and packrafting routes.
	RED (Hiking) & YELLOW (Exploration) & WHITE (Investigation) = **LIGHT ORANGE**
Exploration Packrafting Routes on Water	Exploration water route that is expected to be particular demanding.
	BLUE (Packrafting) & YELLOW (Exploration) = **GREEN**

Table 14: Satellite Image Line Codes

2.2.3 Planning Status

All sections of the **Main Route and** the **Fjord Route** have been hiked, packrafted and GPS-recorded by several GPT travellers in recent years. Therefore, their planning status is "**Verified**".

All other sections that constitute the **Southern Route** and the **Packrafting Specials** have been travelled and partially documented by other hikers and packrafters. Information to these routes can be found on the internet i.e. on Wikiloc, Wikieplora, Suda, AllTrails, Outdoorseiten and many personal travel blogs. Therefore, all GPT routes are based on good evidence that these routes have been hiked or packrafted but the available information is less consistent and sometimes outdated by some years. Therefore, their planning stator is "**Mostly Verified**" **or** "**Partially Verified**". Table 15 on the next page provides an overview to the planning status of the GPT. Below is the explanation of the used terminology:

Verified: At least the regular route was hiked or packrafted in recent years and several GPS records were provided to the founder of the GPT. Hikers can be reasonably confident that the regular route is traversable but this does not necessarily apply to all optional routes and even less to the exploration routes of these sections.

Mostly Verified: There is clear evidence that the regular route was travelled some time ago and the available information permitted to map the regular route. The regular route is probably traversable but the condition might have deteriorated.

Partially Verified: Detailed routes have been planned using satellite images and multiple other sources, but these routes were only partially verified and recorded by GPS. There is good evidence that these routes have been used in the past, but the current condition and the precise routing is partly not yet ground-truthed and recorded by GPS.

Section Planning Status and Benefit of Packrafting				
Section Group		**Route**	**Planning Status**	**Benefit of Packrafting**
Sections	**Group Code and Name**			
GPT01 to GPT04	A: Precordillera	Main Route	Verified	Only Burden (1)
GPT05 to GPT09	B: Zona Arrieros		Verified	Deployable (2)
GPT10 to GPT16	C: Zona Pehuenche		Verified	Deployable (2)
GPT17 to GPT22	D: Lagos Chilenos		Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT23 to GPT26	E: Lagos Argentinos		Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT27 to GPT30	F: Sector Palena		Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT29 to GPT31	G: Aysen Norte		Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT32 to GPT36	H: Aysen Sur		Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT37 to GPT40	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1		Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT41 to GPT46	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2	Southern Route	Mostly Verified	Useful (3)
GPT47 to GPT50	K: Magallanes		Mostly Verified	Useful (3)
GPT60 to GPT69	L: Tierra del Fuego		Mostly Verified	Useful (3)
GPT70 to GPT75	M: Sector Yelcho	Fjord Route	Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT76 to GPT78	N: Fiordos Norte		Verified	Very Useful (4)
GPT80 to GPT82	O: Campo de Hielo Norte	Packrafting Specials	Partially Verified (60%)	Required (5)
GPT90 to GPT92	P: Fiordos Sur		Partially Verified (Only 11%)	Required (5)
-	Q: Huella Andina		Published By Others	Useful (3)

Table 15: Section Group Planning Status and Sections

Comments to Benefit of Packrafting	
(1)	A packraft cannot be used on any section of this group. Therefore, carrying a packraft is not recommended.
(2)	A packraft can only be used on comparable short distances on these sections. Therefore, the benefit of carrying a packraft is limited when traversing the entire section group. A packraft may be beneficial when exploring specific areas around lakes.
(3)	A packraft can be used on some sections. Therefore, carrying a packraft is beneficial.
(4)	A packraft can be used on substantial distances of these sections. Therefore, carrying a packraft is highly beneficial.
(5)	A packraft is required for a traverse of these sections. Therefore, carrying a packraft is essential.

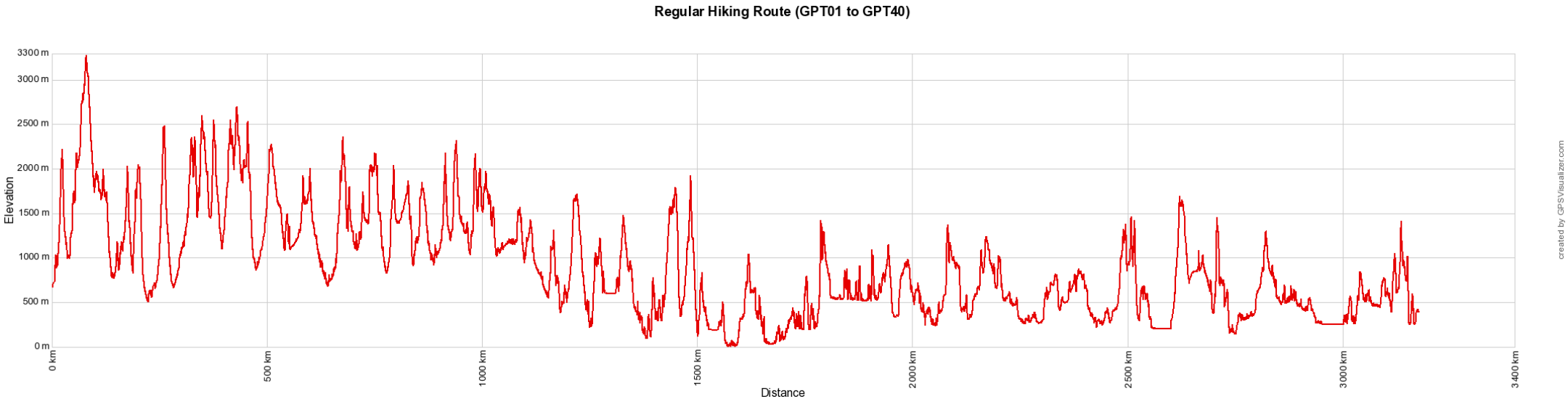
Table 16: Comment to Benefit of Packrafting

2.2.4 Elevation Profile

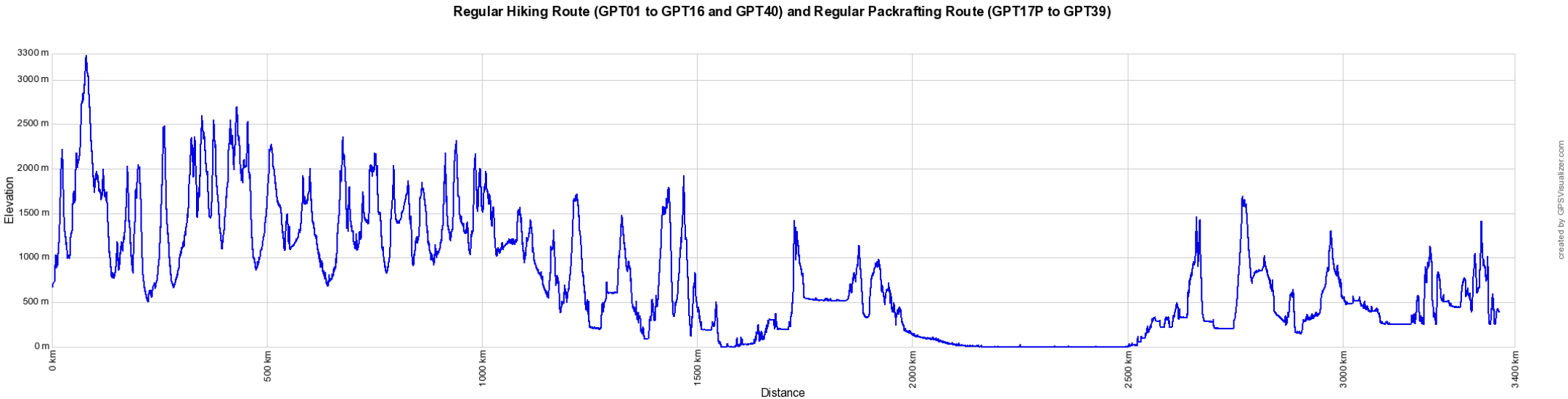
Greater Patagonia is a very diverse region with summits exceeding 6000 m in the north and a vast network of fjords along the Pacific coast in the south. This diversity is reflected on the elevation profile of the GPT. See also 2.1.2.1 Diversity of Greater Patagonia on page 330.

The Elevation Profile 1 and Elevation Profile 2 on the next two pages show the elevation profiles of the regular routes from section GPT01 to GPT40. The first chart represents the regular hiking route while the second chart shows the regular packrafting route[63]. The elevation profiles include the ferry and boat transfers which can be recognized as levelled segments in the otherwise constant up and down of the elevation profile. Therefore, the total length indicated in these two elevation profiles exceeds actual hiking and packrafting distance that is displayed in other tables.

[63] The displayed packrafting route includes packrafting from section GPT17P to GPT39 only. These are the sections where packrafting is highly recommended and generally more attractive than hiking. From section GPT01 to GPT16 the benefit of carrying a packraft is limited, therefore hiking is generally recommended and the packrafting elevation profile displays the regular hiking route in this northern area. Also on GPT40 a packraft is more burden than benefit.

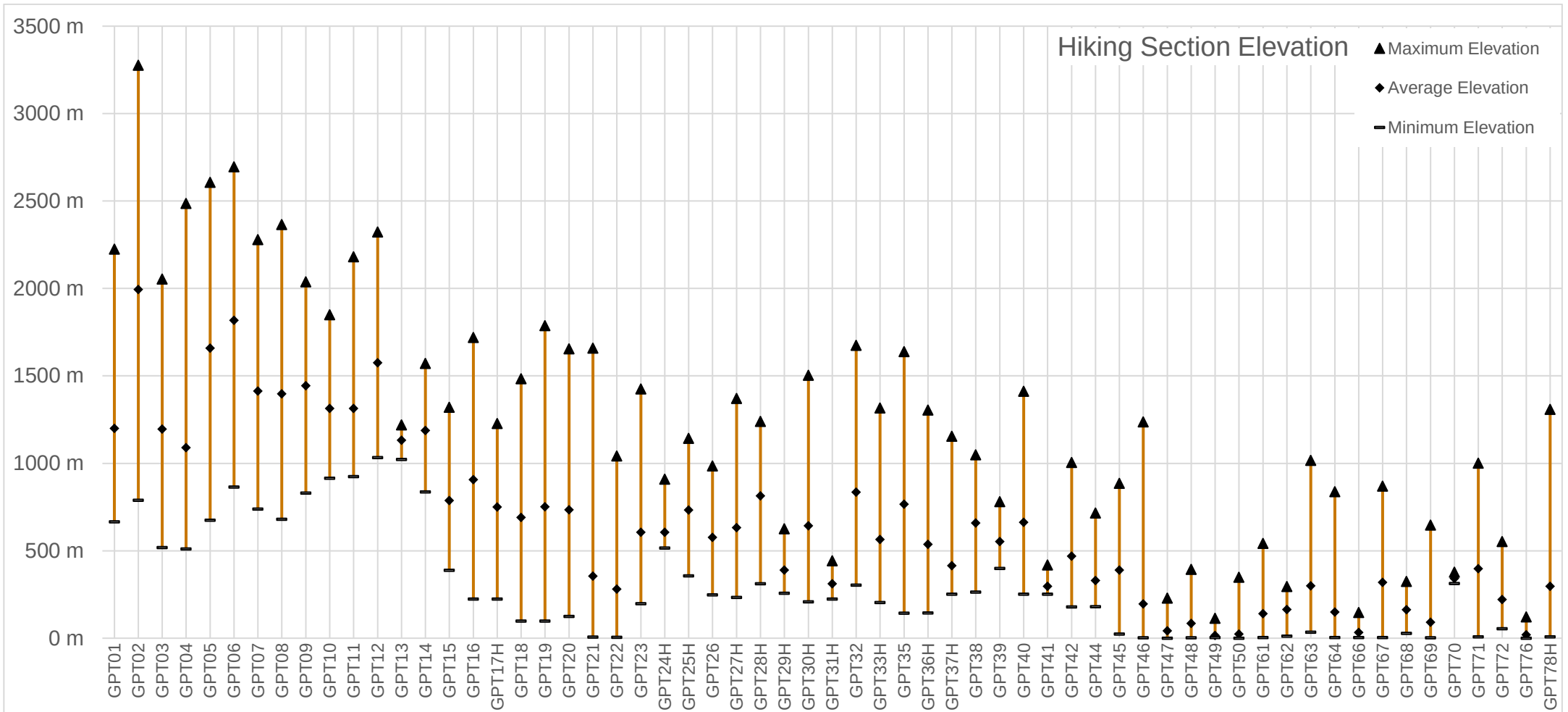


Elevation Profile 1: Regular Hiking Route from GPT01 to GPT40 based on the 2018 track file



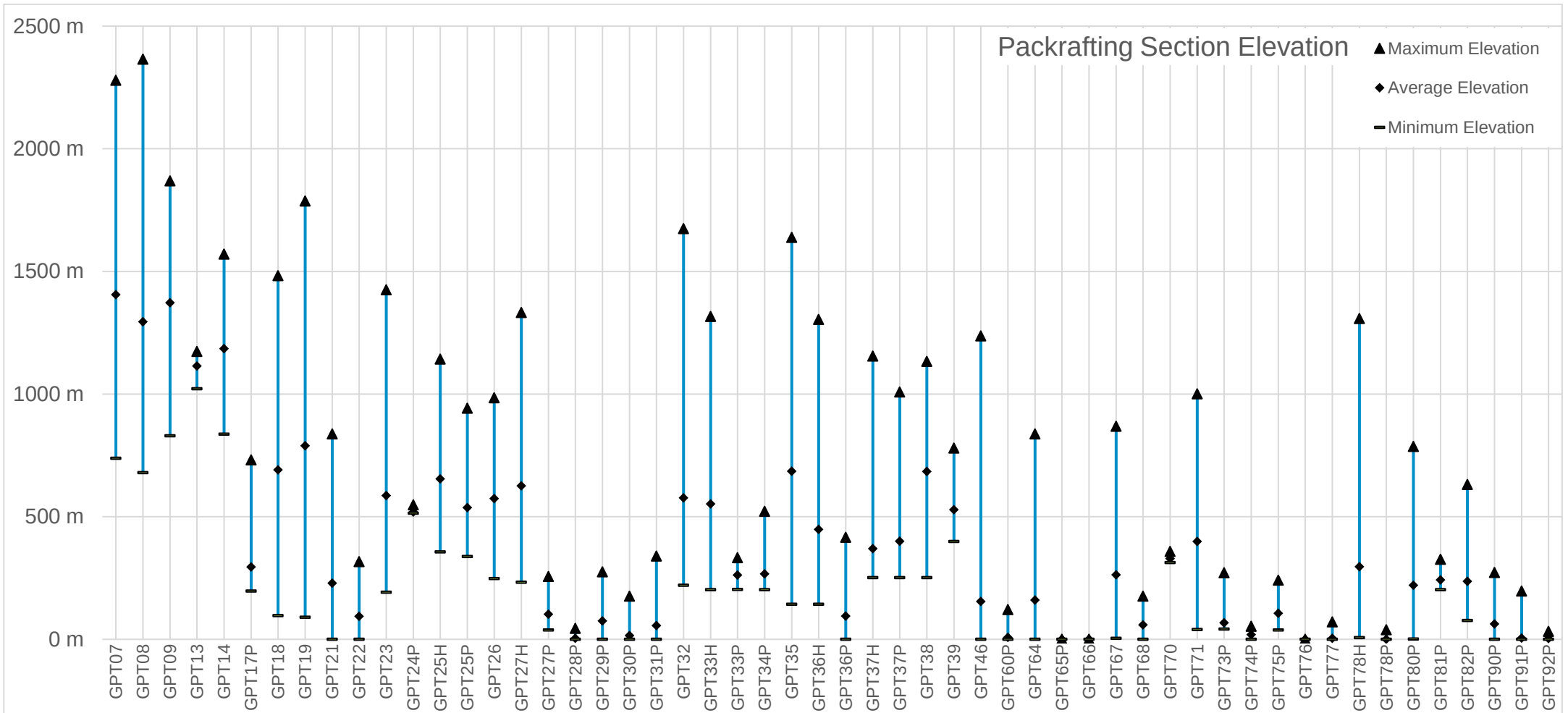
Elevation Profile 2: Combined Regular Hiking (GPT01 to GPT16 and GPT40) and Regular Packrafting Route (GPT17P to GPT39) based on the 2018 track file

The Elevation Profile 4 on the next page shows the maximum elevation, the average elevation and minimum elevation of the regular hiking route. Sections that are not relevant for hiking are not incorporated in this chart (packrafting sections and sections that consist primarily of ferry rides). The average elevation is not the median between the highest and lowest point but a distance weighted average and best represents the typical elevation of each section.



Elevation Profile 3: Maximum, Average and Minimum Elevation of Regular Hiking Route

The Elevation Profile 4 on the next page shows the maximum elevation, the average elevation and minimum elevation of the regular packrafting route. Sections that are not relevant for packrafting are not incorporated in this chart (section with less than 5% packrafting and sections that consist primarily of ferry rides). For sections not displayed in this packrafting chart see the previous hiking chart. Again, the average elevation is not the median between the highest and lowest point but a distance weighted average and best represents the typical elevation of each section.



Elevation Profile 4: Maximum, Average and Minimum Elevation of Regular Packrafting Route (sections with less than 5% packrafting see hiking chart)

These elevation profiles show that the Southern Andes are substantially lower than the Central Andes in Peru, Bolivia, and the north of Chile. In the Central Andes the populated Altiplano often exceeds an elevation of 4000 m, 5000 m high mountains appear in some areas like hills and “proper mountains” often exceed an altitude of 6000 m. This “scale” of the Central Andes appears to have dominated the expectations of some GPT hikers that were somewhat disappointed when they noticed that the GPT rarely climbs above 2000 m.

The average elevation of all sections from GPT01 to GPT14 is above 1000 m while the average elevation of all other sections south of GPT14 never exceeds 1000 m. This reflects well the different character of the northern and the southern part of the Main Route.

The average elevation of all sections of the Southern Route from GPT41 to GPT69 is below 500 m indicating a further “step down” when walking towards the southern tip of Americas.

But these numbers should not lead to the conclusion that higher is better and more beautiful. The diversity makes the GPT route network attractive.

2.2.5 Section Length

Chart 1 and Chart 2 on the following pages show the length of the regular route for each section[64]. In addition, both charts show the estimated hiking or moving time in hours. The estimated hiking time is the approximate time that someone needs to walk to get from the section start to the section finish if taking the regular hiking route. The estimated moving time refers to packrafting and is the combined walking and paddling time. These times are calculated with the factors shown in Table 16 and do not include breaks and rests.

Divide the section hiking or moving time by the number of hours you normally walk or paddle each day to estimate the number of days that you will need for a section.

Track Terrain	Speed
Unit	**km per Hour**
Bush Bashing (BB)	1.0 km/h
Cross Country Trekking (CC)	4.0 km/h
Horse or Hiking Trail (TL)	4.5 km/h
Minor Roads (MR)	5.0 km/h
Primary or Paved Road (PR)	5.0 km/h
River Packrafting (RI)	5.0 km/h
Lake Packrafting (LK)	3.5 km/h
Fjiord Packrafting (FJ)	3.5 km/h
Unit	**Minutes per 100 m**
Ascent	12.0 min/100m
Descent	4.0 min/100m

Table 17: Calculation Factors for Hiking / Moving Time

If you never measured your individual daily moving time, then be careful to not overestimate this number. A moving time of 5 hours per day is a reasonable comfortable hiking pace and a suitable initial assumption. Calculating with 5 hours per day will leave a safety margin to have an occasional easy day or an unplanned rest day if in example some waiting due to poor weather becomes necessary.

[64] The hiking chart show the regular hiking route and the packrafting chart shows the regular packrafting route for sections with at least 5% packrafting. Sections that consist primarily of a ferry ride are not incorporated into the charts.

Maintaining an average of 6 to 7 hours requires quite some focus and walking in average 8 hours per day is demanding. Moving consistently more than 8 hours per day is a tough athletic challenge and only a small number of hikers will be mentally and physically able to maintain such a pace.

I intentionally do not suggest a specific number of hiking days for each section because the walking rhythm varies substantially between hikers. The estimated hiking time or moving time proved a much better planning baseline because a different hiking pace is not driven by a different walking speed but by the time a hiker walks each day. Getting up early, taking only few short breaks and walking late into the evening is what makes a hiker advance, not trying to run. If I would recommend a specific number of days for each section, then I would indirectly “prescribe” one specific hiking ethos to all hikers, and this is not my intention.

Converting the moving time of a packrafting routes into actual travel days by such a calculation is less reliable as unfavourable wind can stop packrafters for several days if no alternative land route provides an “emergency exit” (applies to some packrafting routes in fjords). Therefore, packrafting in fjords may require more contingency reserves.

For more information to the calculation of distances and to the concept of hiking and moving times see chapter 3.11.1 Calculation of Distances, Ascents, Descents on page 1225.

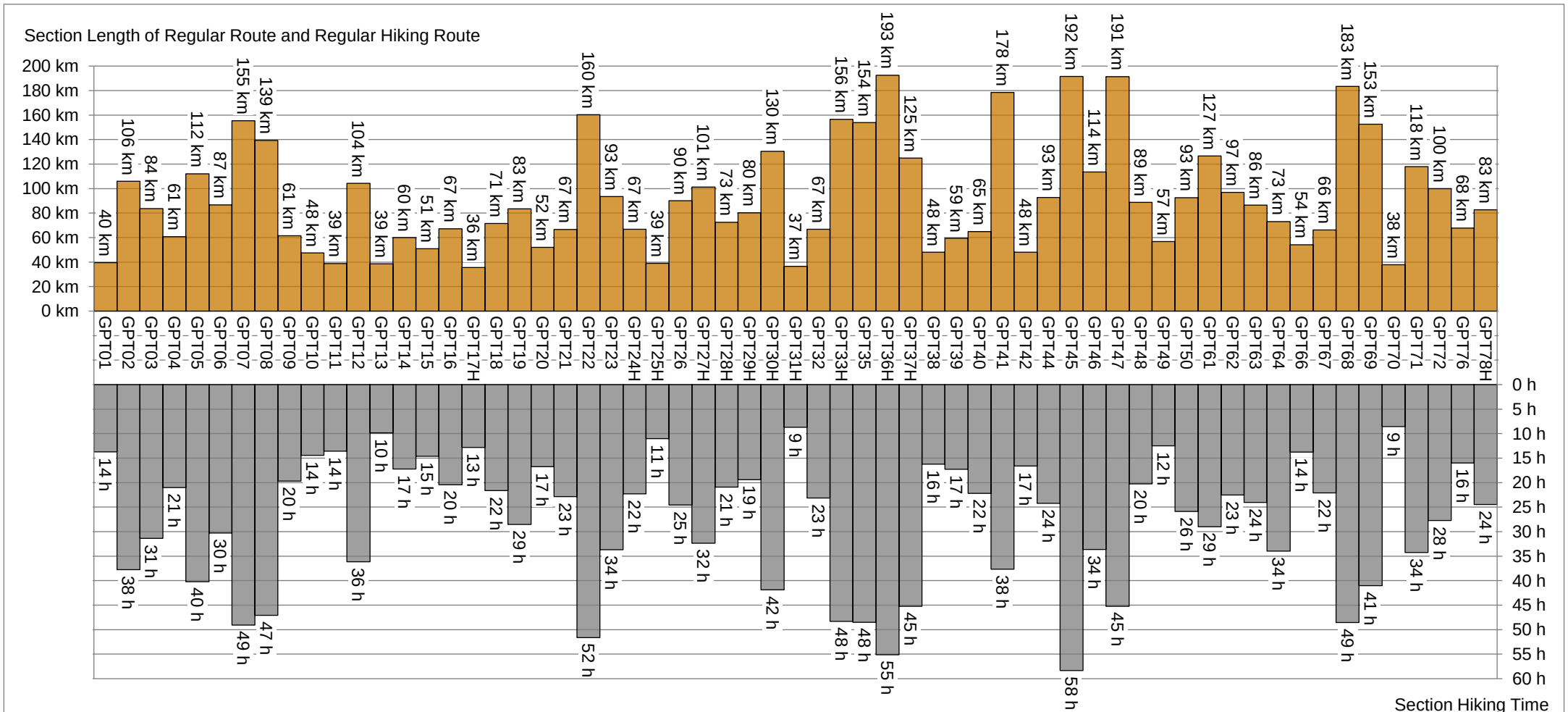


Chart 1: Regular Hiking Routes: Section Length and Estimated Hiking Time

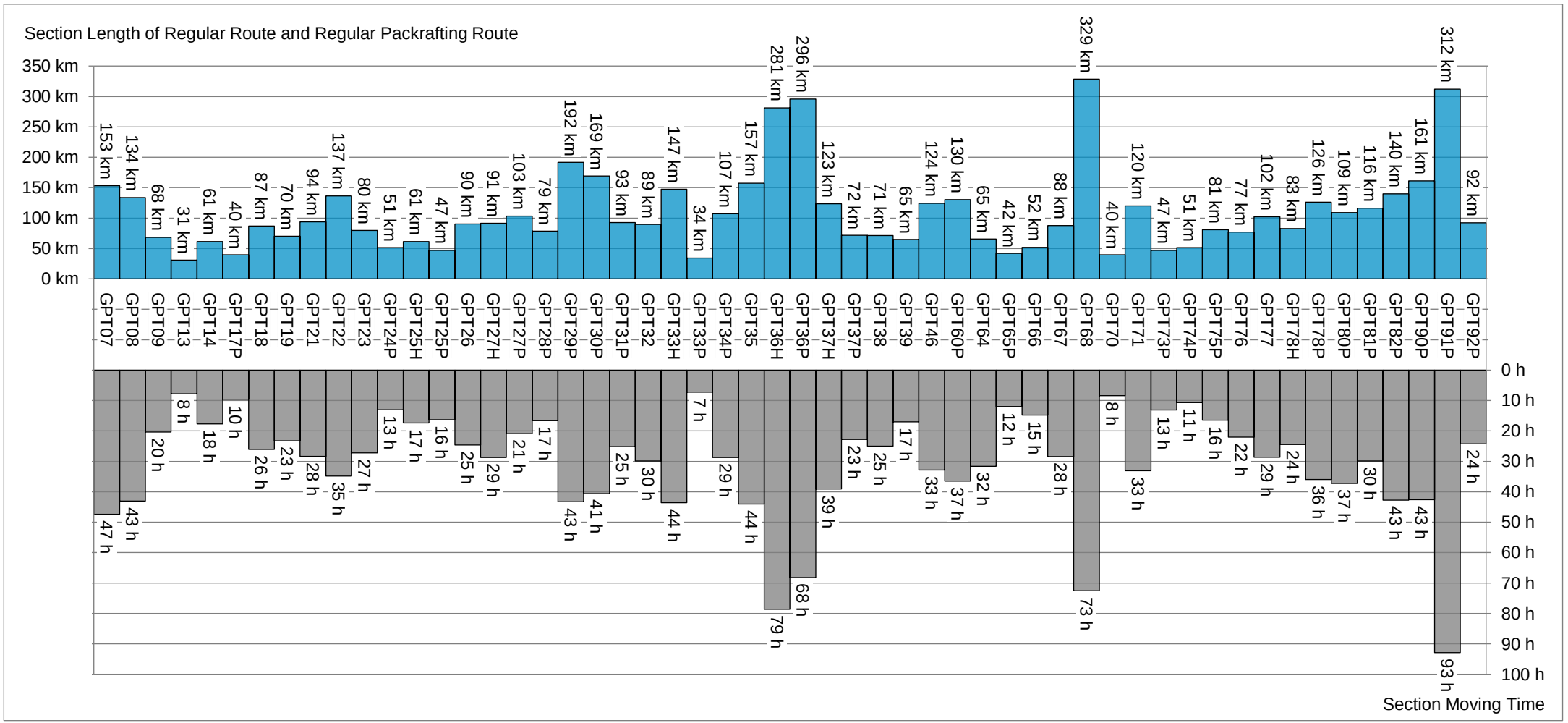


Chart 2: Regular Packrafting Route: Section Length and Estimated Moving Time (for sections with less than 5% packrafting see hiking chart above)

2.2.6 Travel Timing

Timing your hike correctly is essential and anything but trivial. Some sections are deeply covered in snow till late spring, others are not traversable during snow melt because rivers are dangerously swollen and some border crossings between Argentina and Chile are closed during parts of the year. Also, some intuitive assumptions are simply wrong. Many hikers first assume that the northern sections in the rather subtropical part of Chile are good for an early start, but this is not the case.

The GPT is located on the southern hemisphere where seasons are inversed to the northern hemisphere. If you are familiar with timing your hikes in Europe or North America than translate the seasons and the months using the table below.

Season	**Winter**			**Spring**			**Summer**			**Autumn**		
Northern Hemisphere	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Southern Hemisphere	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**

Table 18 Southern Hemisphere Seasons

Generally speaking, December to March are the preferable months to hike the southern Andes but some sections are also traversable in spring and autumn. What complicates hiking in spring are remaining snow fields and high river levels from snow melt. In April the likelihood of blizzards with heavy snow increases in mountainous areas.

For packrafting an additional aspect needs to be considered: wind. Patagonia is (in)famous for the heavy enduring wind that blows particular strong during the summer. In spring and autumn calm periods are more frequent.

During summer you have plenty of daytime hours in particular in the far south. The opposite is the case in early spring and late

autumn. To provide some numbers: At the latitude of the Southern Patagonian Icefield you have around midsummer more than 16 hours between sunrise and sunset. Fife month later towards the end of autumn the daytime shrinks to less than 9 hours.

Table 20 and Table 21 on the next pages show to the best of my knowledge when each section is normally traversable. This of cause comes with an uncertainty as conditions vary from year to year. After a snow-rich winter it will take longer for the snow to melt. A hot spring can accelerate the snow melt but makes rivers impassable. And a couple of hot days and tempered nights in mid-summer can rise glacier feed streams to a level that they are unsafe to cross. To include this uncertainty, I'm using three categories:

Code	Meaning	Comment
N	Not Recommended	Traversing is not recommended in example due to dangerously swollen rivers or a substantially elevated risk of adverse weather in example blizzards.
C	Conditionally	In some years a traverse is feasible if conditions are favourable. Therefore, hikers attempting a traverse should be prepared to back-track in example if a river is unsafe to ford. Large snow fields may need to be crossed and the likelihood of adverse weather in example blizzards is elevated.
Y	Normally Feasible	A traverse is normally feasible. But under adverse weather conditions a traverse may become unsafe in example after an extended period of heavy rain. Hikers should always consider the possibility to back-track in their preparation and when encountering unsafe conditions on the trail.

Table 19 Section Travel Timing Categories

This information is based on personal experiences, the recommendations of *arrieros* and settlers that live on or near the trail and accounts of other hikers. To further refine this timing recommendation every hiker that traverses a section particular early or particular late is asked to share his expertise. Only a collaborated effort can refine this information.

| Section Travel Timing Recommendations for Main Route from GPT01 to GPT40 | | |

Southern Route from GPT41 to GPT69																																							
Sep	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	Y	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	C	C
Oct	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	Y	C	Y	C	C	C	Y	C	Y	C	Y	C	Y	N	Y	Y	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	C	C
Nov	C	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	C	Y	C	Y	N	Y	Y	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	C	Y	C	C	C	C
Dec	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	C	C	C	C
Jan	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	C
Feb	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	C
Mar	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	C
Apr	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	Y	C	Y	C	C	C	Y	C	Y	C	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	C	C	C	C
May	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	Y	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	C	Y	N	Y	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	C	C	C
Code	GPT41	GPT42	GPT43	GPT44	GPT45	GPT46	GPT47	GPT48	GPT49	GPT50	GPT60H	GPT60P	GPT61	GPT62	GPT63	GPT64	GPT65H	GPT65P	GPT66	GPT67	GPT68	GPT69	GPT70	GPT71	GPT72	GPT73P	GPT74P	GPT75P	GPT76	GPT77	GPT78H	GPT78P	GPT80P	GPT81P	GPT82P	GPT90P	GPT91P	GPT92P
Section Name	Lago Viedma	Glaciar Upsala	Lago Argentina	Peninsula de Magellanes	Torres Del Paine	Seno Ultima Esperanza	Seno Skyring	Seno Otway	Peninsula Brunswick	Cabo Froward	Ferry Porvenir	Estrecho de Magellanes	Bahia Inutil	Pampa Guanaco	Lago Fagnano	Bahia Yendegaia	Ferry Puerto Williams	Canal Beagle	Puerto Navarino	Dientes de Navarino	Tolhuin	Ushuaia	Alto Rio Futaleufu	Espolon	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	Lago Yelcho	Rio Yelcho	Rio Frio	PN Pumalin Sur	PN Pumalin Norte	Volcan Yates	Estuario Reloncavi	Glaciar Exploradores	Glaciar Leones	Aysen Glacier Trail	Volcan Hudson	Istmo Ofqui	Glacier Steffens

Table 21: GPT41 to GPT92P Section Travel Timing Recommendations

On some sections a less exposed optional route may bypass an area with a seasonal restriction but documenting and discussing all these options is beyond the scope of this overview table.

2.2.7 Travel Direction

The direction of travel must be chosen before departing; either southbound or northbound. When **hiking** you are normally **free to choose either direction**. So, this choice can be based on rather practical consideration like timing (some sections are earlier accessible than others), additional travel plans before and after the hike and the necessity to pre-arrange an entry permit when traversing a section in a specific direction.

When packrafting, then the travel direction of some sections is determined by the flow direction of rivers. In addition, the predominant wind direction on lakes and fjords makes often a specific travel direction preferable. Generally speaking, travelling **southbound is favorable when packrafting** the GPT but this does not apply to all sections. Flip-flopping should be considered to optimize packraft deployment.

Table 22 on the next page provides this essential planning information for each section group. The arrows indicate the preferable travel direction: ↓ southbound, ↑ northbound, ← westbound and → eastbound.

Preferable Travel Direction				
Section Group		**Preferable Travel Direction**		**Benefit of Packrafting**
Sections	**Group Code and Name**	**Hiking**	**Packrafting**	
GPT01 to GPT04	A: Precordillera	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑	Only Burden
GPT05 to GPT09	B: Zona Arrieros	Both ↓↑ (1)	Both ↓↑ (1)	Deployable
GPT10 to GPT16	C: Zona Pehuenche	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑	Deployable
GPT17 to GPT22	D: Lagos Chilenos	Both ↓↑ (6)	Both ↓↑ (2, 6)	Very Useful
GPT23 to GPT26	E: Lagos Argentinos	Both ↓↑	**Only** ↓ (3)	Very Useful
GPT27 to GPT30	F: Sector Palena	Both ↓↑	**Only** ↓ (3)	Very Useful
GPT29 to GPT31	G: Aysen Norte	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2, 6)	Very Useful
GPT32 to GPT36	H: Aysen Sur	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	Very Useful
GPT37 to GPT40	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	Very Useful
GPT41 to GPT46	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)	Useful
GPT47 to GPT50	K: Magallanes	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	Useful
GPT60 to GPT69	L: Tierra del Fuego	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)	Useful
GPT70 to GPT75	M: Sector Yelcho	Both ←→	Preferable ← (5)	Very Useful
GPT76 to GPT78	N: Fiordos Norte	Preferable ↑ (5)	Both ↓↑	Very Useful
GPT80 to GPT82	O: Campo de Hielo Norte	None	Preferable ↓ (4)	Required
GPT90 to GPT92	P: Fiordos Sur	None	Preferable ↓ (4)	Required
-	Q: Huella Andina	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑	Useful

Table 22: Preferable Travel Direction on Main Route

Comments to Preferable Travel Direction	
(1)	For northbound travel on GPT06 an entry permit to the hydro-power station "Los Cypresses" is required. This permit must be requested in advance and is only given to parties of at least two hikers.
(2)	Depending on the direction of travel different waters may be partially packrafted.
(3)	Due to the flow direction of the incorporated rivers only southbound travel is feasible.
(4)	Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.
(5)	See detailed information and recommendation to individual sections.
(6)	"Flip-Flop" recommended on GPT22 and GPT29P.

Table 23: Comments to Preferable Travel DirectionTrack Terrain Composition

2.2.8 Track Terrain Composition

The GPT is an informal route network that consists of a diverse mix of trails, roads and cross country routes and optional packrafting as outlined in chapters 1.3 The GPT Route Network on page 35.

The track terrain composition of the GPT sections is displayed in Chart 3 and Chart 4 on the following pages. This facilitates the planning and permits an educated choice of sections. It also supports selecting the appropriate method of travel (hiking or packrafting). The following track terrains are differentiated:

Horse and Hiking **Trails** (TL): Mostly visible trail on any terrain (open landscape or forest). Trails are primarily used by animals and rarely made for hiking.

Minor and Two-Track **Roads** (MR): Any route that could be used or can be used by a vehicle regardless if this road or car track is open for public use or not. This category also includes abandoned roads that are not any more traversable by vehicles. Minor roads are without transit traffic. Walking on minor road is often perceived as reasonable comfortable. Hitch-hiking is rarely promising.

Primary or Paved **Roads** (PR): Public gravel or paved road with moderate transit traffic. Walking on primary roads can be annoying especially when paved. Hitch-hiking is generally promising.

Cross Country Routes (CC): Route that passes through open landscape without a visible continuous trail but also without dense vegetation. Sporadic animal tracks might be visible but may be misguiding.

Bush Bashing Routes (BB): Route that passes through overgrown terrain. A machete might be beneficial or even necessary.

Ferry and Boat Transfers (FY): Lake, river or fjord crossing with a ferry or a motorboat. Distances covered with a ferry or motorboat are NOT included in the distance calculation but displayed for information only.

River Packrafting (RI): River downstream float with a packraft. One-Way only!

Lake Packrafting (LK): Lake crossing with a packraft. Normally Two-Way travel is possible but the predominant wind may make one direction preferable.

Fjord Packrafting (FJ): Fjord paddling with a packraft. Normally Two-Way travel is possible but the predominant wind may make one direction preferable. In fjords a good understanding of tides is essential as tidal flows can exceed the packrafting speed.

The terrain composition chart of the packrafting route shows that sections **GPT17P to GPT39 offer the most packrafting**. Further north and further south a packraft can also be deployed but the lower proportion might make a packraft more burden than benefit.

For further information to the track terrains see also chapters:

- 3.3.4.20 Further Explanations to Track Terrains on page 1123
- 3.3.4.20.1 Hiking on Land on page 1124
- 3.3.4.20.2 Motorized Travel on Water on page 1130
- 3.3.4.20.3 Packrafting on Water on page 1131

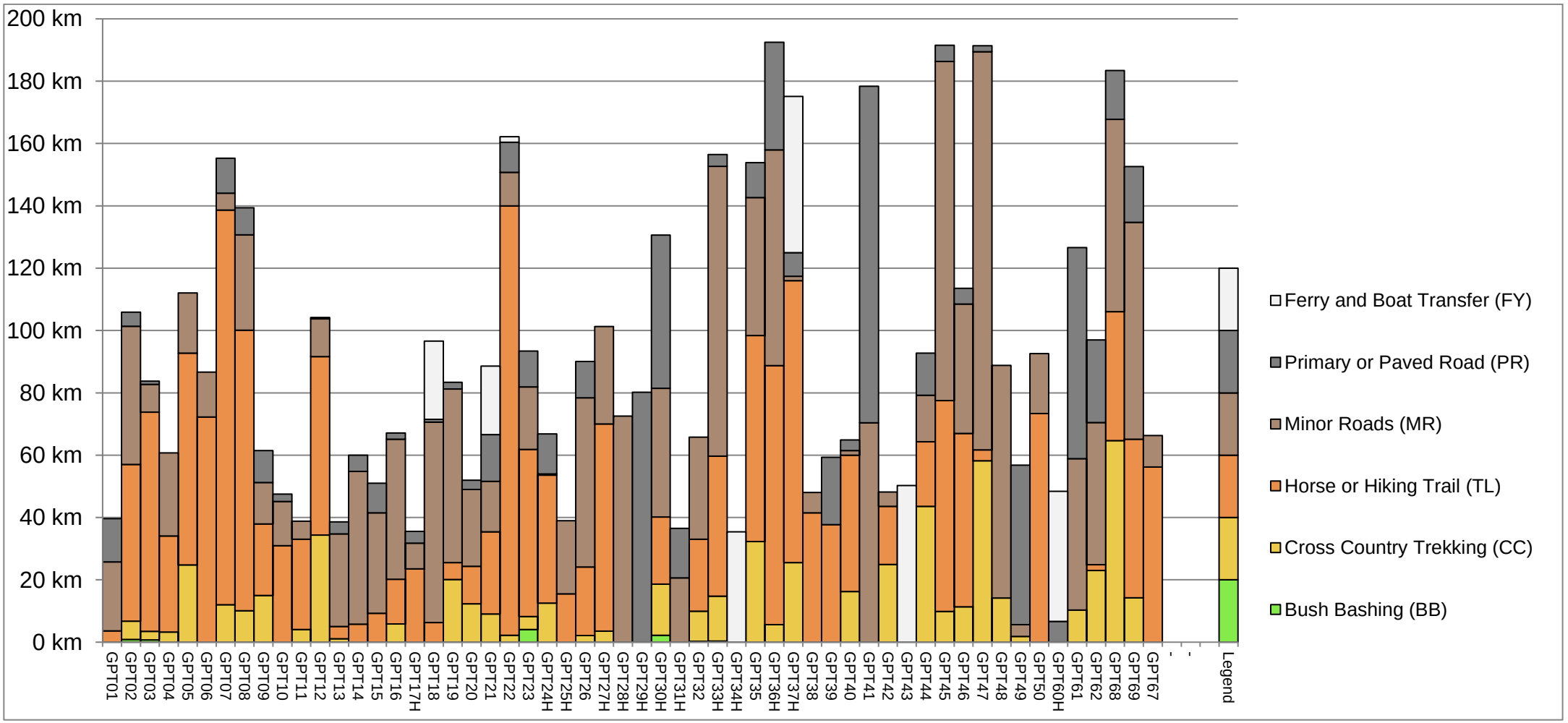


Chart 3: Main Route and Southern Route: Terrain Composition of Regular Hiking Route

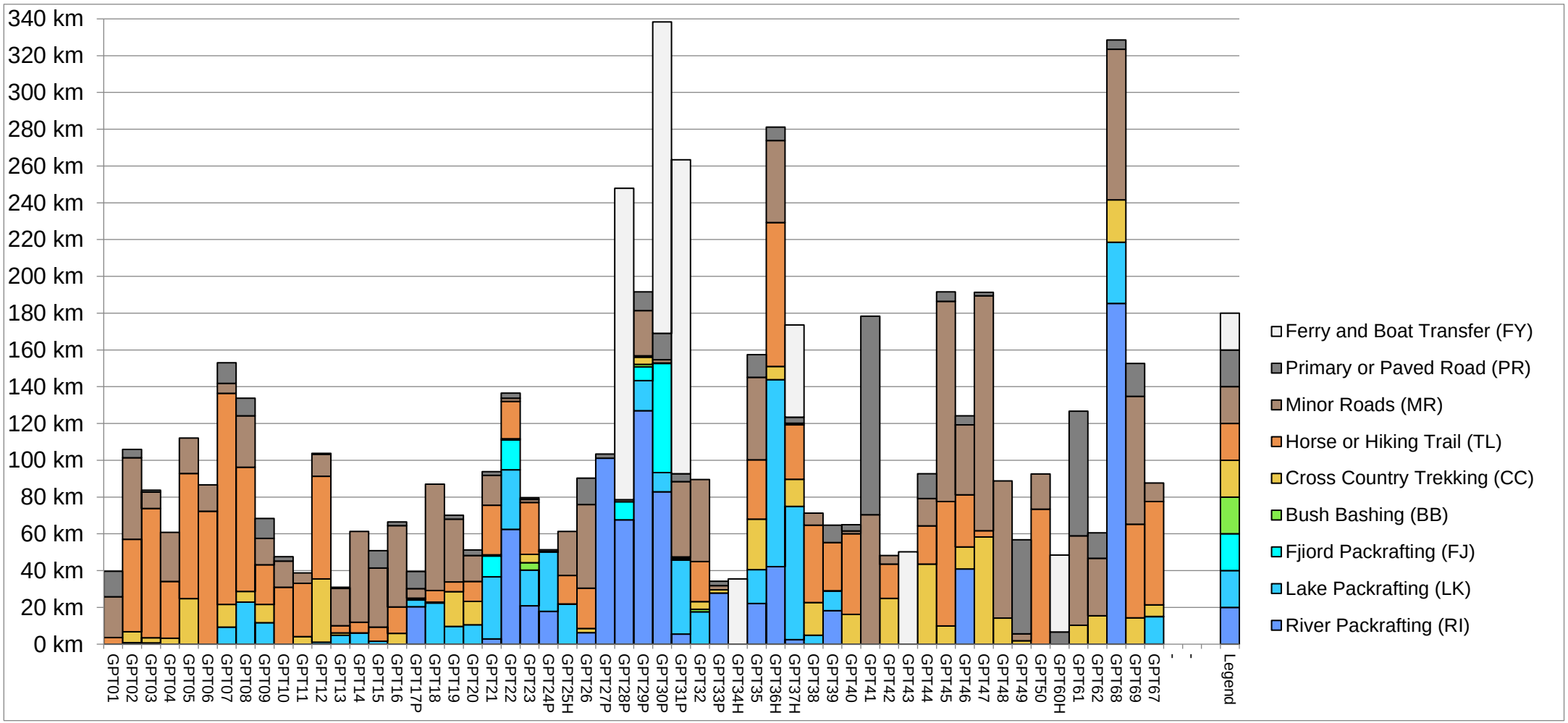
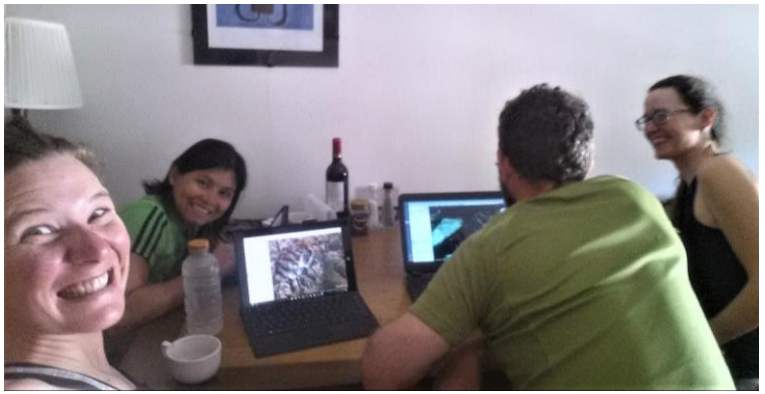


Chart 4: Main Route and Southern Route: Terrain Composition of Regular Packrafting Route excluding most Exploration Sections

2.2.9 Section Attractiveness and Difficulty Rating



Picture 233: Santiago de Chile: Reviewing our individual experiences of the GPT to grade all sections of the Main Route. Image: Bethany Hughes

The attractiveness and difficulty rating shall help hikers and packrafters to make an educated choice of sections.

The four hikers that first walked and packrafted most of the trail[65] made the initial evaluation of attractiveness and difficulty in 2017. Opinions of GPT travellers during the following seasons where later incorporated. This evaluation compares the sections of the Main Route and the Southern Route in between each other (relative comparison) and does not attempt to compare the GPT with other trails.

Two grades from 1 to 5 are given to each section, one grade for attractiveness and one grade for difficulty. The 5 stands for the most attractive or the most difficult category. The grades of all hiking sections are adjusted so that the average is a precise 3. This adjustment makes a relative comparison of the sections more plausible.

For sections with substantial packrafting an additional packrafting grading is given. This grading is based on the same (subjective) hiking scale to facilitate a comparison between hiking or packrafting the same section. Since packrafting is generally more attractive and more challenging the average of the packrafting grades exceeds 3.

Because this is only a relative comparison an attractiveness of 1 or 2 does not mean "ugly" and "not worth to walk", it simply

[65] Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed, my wife Meylin Ubilla and me the author

means that the majority of the other sections are more spectacular. And since several sections are mind-blowing beautiful "competition" is tough and a number of sections simply must end up in these lower categories even if they are worthwhile hiking. Equally a difficulty grade of 1 or 2 does not mean "a piece of cake". Depending on the weather even such a section can become threatening and these easier sections may have shorter quite demanding parts.

Such an evaluation of the attractiveness and challenge is obviously subjective. Rather random factors like the weather when hiking or a particular memorable encounter with a resident on the trail influences the judgement. But regardless of this, the four persons that made the initial evaluation expressed no substantial discrepancies and assigned identical or similar grades to most sections. The evaluation of the attractiveness considers not only the landscape and the trail itself but also the cultural experience with the local population as this trail comes only with the people that live on it and you can't have just the trail by itself.

The evaluation of the difficulty and challenge considers the terrain, the trail condition, potential exposure to poor weather, remoteness, section length and resupply possibilities along the trail. This evaluation is based on the regular route. The individual experience will greatly vary with the actual weather that someone is exposed while hiking or packrafting. Also, some optional routes are much more demanding compared to the regular route. Keep this in mind when making you choices.

The hiking sections GPT05 and GPT23 and several packrafting sections are particular unpredictable due to fords of glacier feed river, badly overgrown trails, wind exposure or because these routes are not fully “ground-truthed” yet. To caution adventurers that wish to explore these sections a difficulty grade of 6 on a scale from 1 to 5 is given (off-scale rating). On the Main Route these sections can be skipped (GPT05) or bypassed by using either the corresponding hiking section (in example GPT25H instead of GPT25P) or by taking a ferry to bypass these particular challenging packrafting routes (GPT29P, GPT60P, GPT65P).

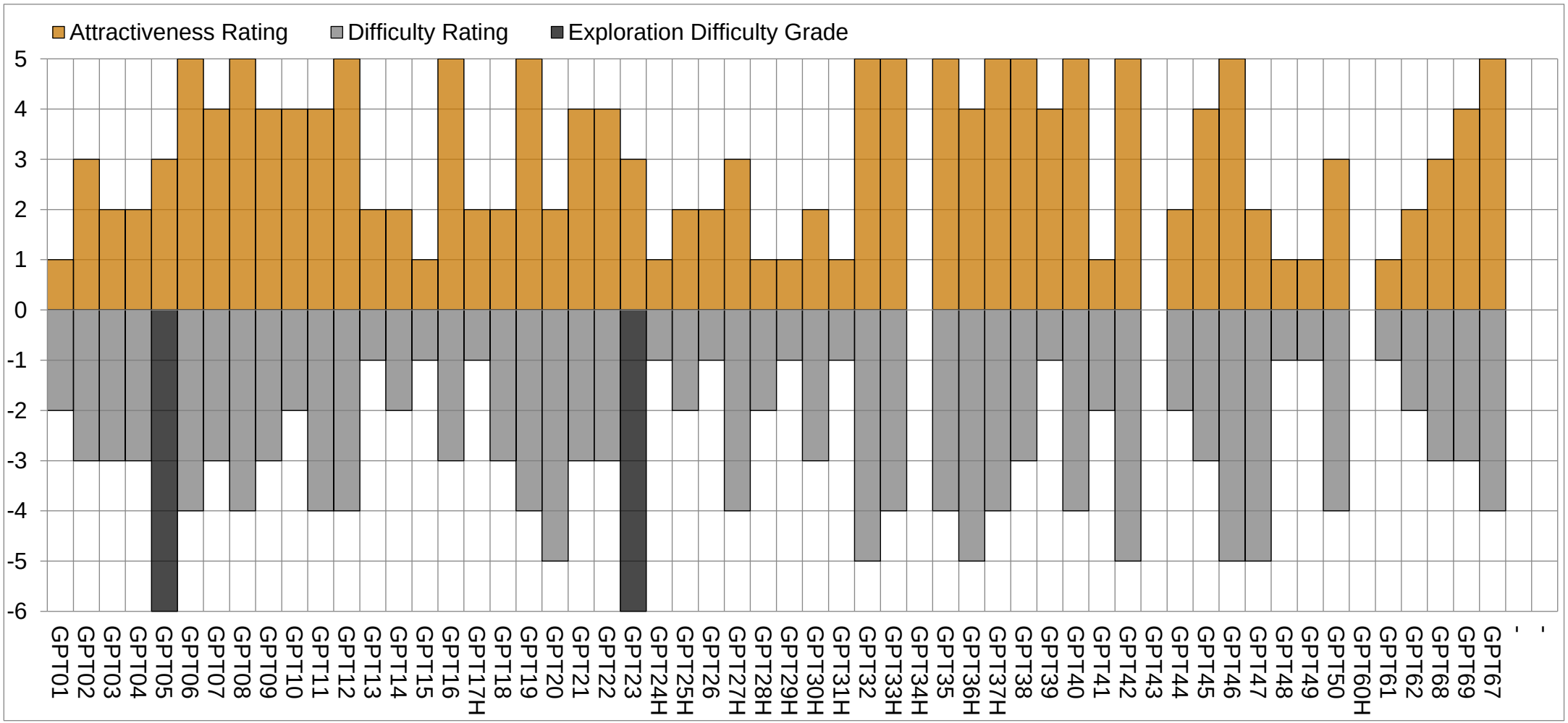


Chart 5: Main Route and Southern Route: Section Evaluation of Regular Hiking Route (Ferry only sections without evaluation)

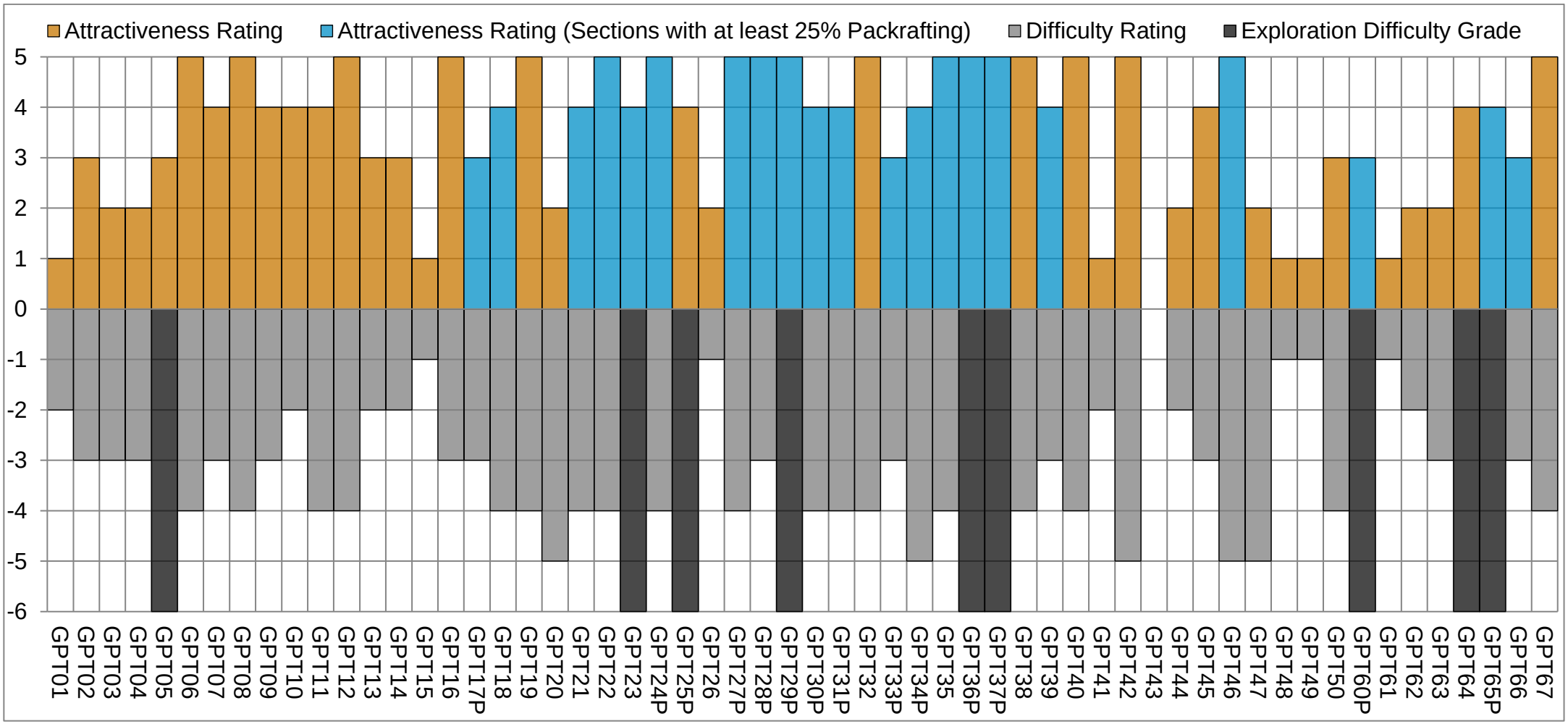


Chart 6: Main Route and Southern Route: Section Evaluation of Regular Packrafting Route **including all Exploration Sections**

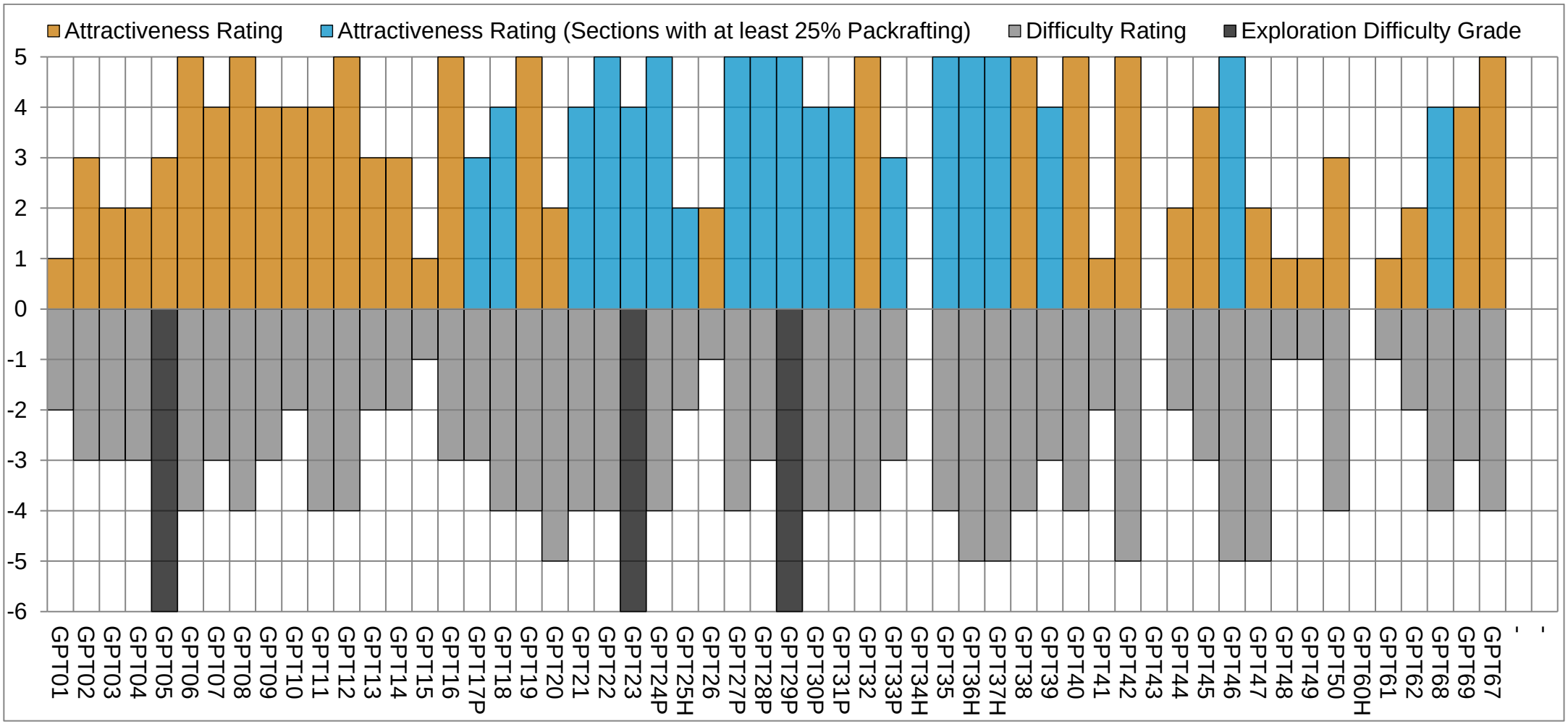


Chart 7: Main Route and Southern Route: Section Evaluation of Regular Packrafting Route **excluding most Exploration Sections**

2.2.10 Hiking the Southern Route | GPT41 - GPT69

For most hikers cherry-picking from the more attractive sections is the appropriate approach on the Southern Route. The partially long road walking sections make a thru-hike of the Southern Route less rewarding if compared to the Main Route.

The Southern Route can be hiked in either direction. Exceptions where a northbound travel is advantageous are (see arrows):

- Sections GPT46 and GPT45 if taking the sightseeing boat in Puerto Natales that tours the Seno Ultima Esperanza and that may be disembarked at Puerto Torres. This option facilitates preparations for Torres del Paine in Puerto Natales.

- Section GPT64 and GPT63 from Bahia Yendegaia to Pampa Guanaco because organizing a transfer to Bahia Yendegaia seams easier than leaving this isolated outpost after having walked there (better information might change this).

An early start or late finish is feasible, if less exposed options are selected to bypass the higher passes. The primary obstacle when starting from Ushuaia on the Southern Route is probably Paso



Picture 234: Southern Route: Magellanes. Image: Google Earth

Bridges that becomes traversable in October or November. When finishing in Ushuaia than heavy snow likely becomes in issue in April or May.

On Tierra del Fuego the Regular Hiking Route splits in in branches at Pampa Guanaco:

- The more demanding sections GPT63 to GPT67 on the Chilean side
- The less complicated sections GPT68 and GPT69 on the Argentine side

Where walking the Southern Route with connecting footsteps it seams preferable to not even attempt to obtain a permit to cross the international border at the *paso no habilitado* (Spanish term for the “green border”) between Lago Argentino and Torres del Paine. Walking to the border, backtracking to the next road and crossing the border at a regular border control in a busgreatly simplifies planning.

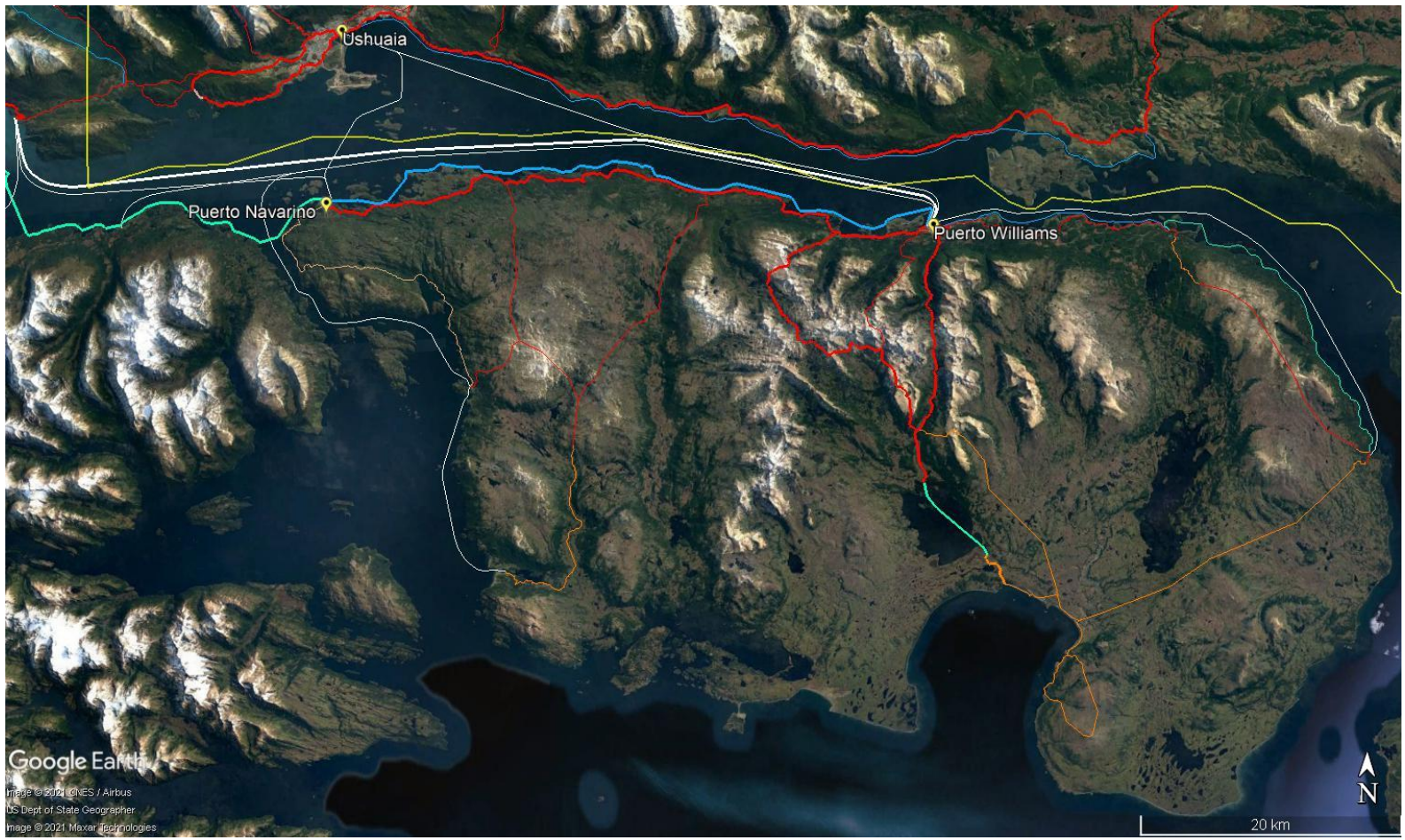


Picture 235: Southern Route: Tierra del Fuego. Image: Google Earth

The most southern sections are GPT66 and GPT67 on Isla Navarino that is Chilean territory.

Isla Navarino can be reached by boat from Punta Arenas or Ushuaia or by plane from Punta Arenas. Boats from Ushuaia disembark passangers either in Puerto Navarino or in Puerto Williams.

Hikers that opt for the demanding sections GPT64 and GPT63 may be able to arrange a boat transfer from Puerto Navarino to Bahia Yendegaia in example after having hiked these most southern sections.



Picture 236: Southern Route: Tierra del Fuego. Image: Google Earth

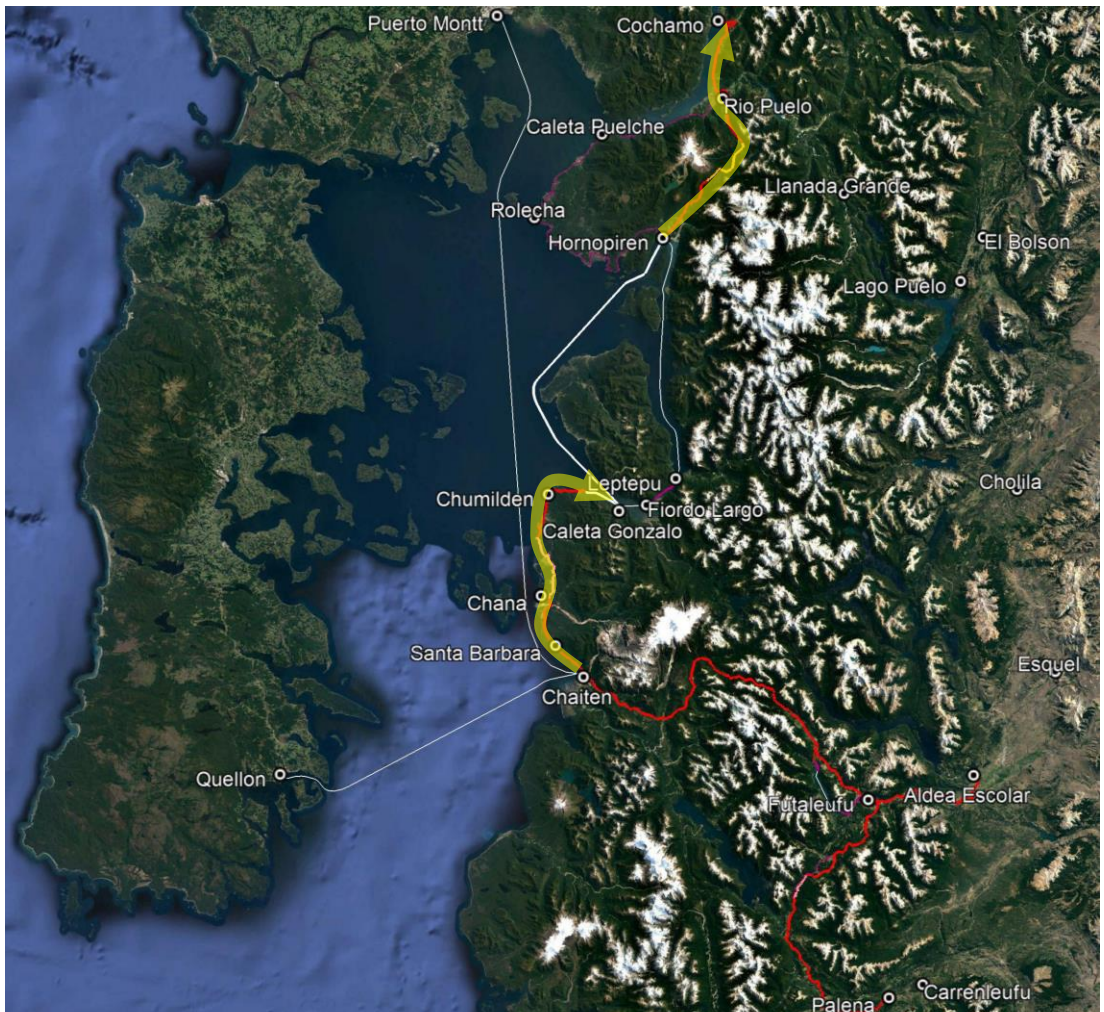
2.2.11 Hiking the Fjord Route | GPT70 - GPT78

With the regular hiking route of section GPT23 currently in poor condition and officially closed, hikers should consider walking the Fjord Route instead (Status 2021). See chapter 2.1.5 The Fjord Route | GPT70 - GPT78 on page 343 for a listing of the highlights.

The Fjord Route can be hiked northbound and southbound but walking section GPT76 and GPT78 northbound might facilitate arranging a motorboat transfer from Chumilden to Caleta Gonzalo and mitigate a right-of-way conflict when walking from Hornopiren to Rio Puelo (see arrows).

Between Rio Puelo and Cochamo hikers may walk parts of the scenic section GPT22 (walk or bus to Lago Tagua Tagua, take the ferry and then connect with the Regular Hiking Route and walk northbound to Cochamo).

Sections GPT70, GPT71 and GPT72 incorporate some longer stretches of road walking, party on paved roads, but hitch-hiking or taking public transportation is generally possible.



Picture 237: Fjord Hiking Route. Image: Google Earth

2.2.12 Discussion of Sections Selection for Hiking | GPT01 - GPT78

On the previous pages I displayed and discussed specific aspects: first the elevation profile, then the section length, followed by the recommended timing, the recommended travel direction, the track terrain composition and finally the attractiveness and difficulty rating. Each aspect by itself is insufficient to make an educated section selection but combining this information facilitates a thoughtful choice. On the next pages I briefly discuss all sections of the Main Route, the Southern Route and the Fjord Route from a hiking perspective and add further aspects that are relevant for a section selection.

One sequence of very attractive sections is in the north (GPT06 to GPT22) and a second block is in the south (GPT32 to GPT46). Since the resupply logistics and the weather is more favourable in the north, **I suggest attempting first sections GPT06 to GPT22**. If having time, energy and money left then **select additional sections in the south from GPT32 to GPT46**. See also 2.1.1 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 326.

GPT01 to GPT04: The first 4 sections are a good choice for **early starters that arrive in October or November in Santiago**. But hikers that commence in December or later should consider starting further south. In mid-summer parts of these sections might become unpleasantly hot and try and are the opposite to what someone expects of Patagonia.

GPT01 Southbound: The Regular Route of GPT01 was intentionally chosen as the first section as this short but physical demanding route with more than 2000 m of ascent is a good initial physical fitness test. The only 40 km short route makes backtracking easy should someone feel overwhelmed.

GPT01 Northbound: Hikers that walk the northern sections northbound should consider combining GPT02 and GPT01 in one long trip without resupplying in Melocoton and exiting the GPT with GPT01 Option 1 (Rio Clarillo). Exiting the GPT at Parque Nacional Rio Clarillo makes a perfect finish but hikers that plan to start southbound on this route will probably be turned back by park rangers that normally do not permit a non-return traverse of this protected area (but an one-way exit of the National Park has not been an issue so far).

GPT02: This section is with 106 km much longer than GPT01, more exposed and with a 33 km long water-less finish. Hikers that felt pushed beyond their personal limits on section GPT01 should skip section GPT02.

GPT03: This section offers several options into more remote and elevated terrain. Hikers with some climbing experience may look into these options to spice up their adventure on the GPT.

GPT05: Hikers that love to clamber through particular remote, steep and rugged terrain might enjoy this section but other hikers that are not familiar with this kind of landscape will quickly be frightened and driven into despair. Also, the traversability of section GPT05 is difficult to predict. During the summer high temperatures can rise one glacier-feed river to a level that fording this river becomes very dangerous. On a second mayor river ford the makeshift bridge gets often flushed away during the spring snowmelt.

Therefore, **starting a GPT hike on section GPT05 is certainly not a good idea** and one hiker that unfortunately did this summarized the experience with these words: “I am calling it quits on the GPT, GPT05 kicked my ASS to say the least (…) and I am not novice to tough hiking”. Other hikers that walked this section later into their trips perfectly understood this statement and nobody questioned her toughness.

Hikers with a climbing background that are still underwhelmed may consider entering or exiting this section via Option 1 and 2 that pass Laguna el Teno and climb up to Vocan Planchon.

GPT06 to GPT12: **These seven sections are a hiking highlight of the GPT**. The landscape, the people, the trail condition, and the weather make this region my favourite trekking area. I would not be surprised if this part of the GPT becomes a new Hiking-Mekka of Chile that rivals the internationally known Torres del Paine national park. Therefore, it would be a pity to skip any of these sections. If starting in late November or early December a northbound travers of these sections seams favourable. But if starting in late December or January southbound hiking is recommended to harvest food from the Araucaria trees on sections GPT10 to GPT12.

GPT06: This section traverses a mind-blowing volcanic landscape and normally becomes traversable somewhen in December and makes **a perfect start or finish of a hike on the GPT**. This section certainly tough and tests resilience and endurance but is less demanding than the previous section GPT05.

Hikers with a love for summits may climb the 3953 m high Descabezado Grande in a demanding long but not particular technical walk. The 2000 m ascent from the Regular Route may be split into two days if camping one night closer to the summit on the roughly 2500 m high volcanic ash plateau.

Hikers that love long demanding tours into remote terrain may consider combining section GPT05 and GPT06 in one long trip without resupplying halfway (but better after having walked some less demanding section and adjusting to the GPT). A northbound or southbound hike of this section combination should be evaluated. A southbound traverse means placing the most demanding

parts at the beginning what shortens backtracking in case GPT05 is not traversable. A northbound traverse means that someone can opt for or against adding GPT05 after a probable quite satisfying hike on GPT06.

An interesting option for hikers that love long cross-country walks though unpopulated wilderness is the eastern route GPT06 Option 2 (Descabezado Desolado) next to the border to Argentina. This route can be combined with a circuit around the Laguna del Maule which is GPT06 Option 7 (Laguna del Maule).

GPT07 and GPT08: Elevated rivers during snowmelt prevent an early start but in an average year these two sections become traversable somewhen in December. These two sections cross the *arriero* heartland, what adds a social and a cultural dimension to the hike. If buying some food from these *arriero* someone may combine GPT07 and GPT08 into one long hike in example by taking Option 6 (Las Truchas) of GPT07 that links both sections on rarely travelled, remote and scenic route. This up to 280 km long section combination is an endurance challenge with several exit routes if running low on food or motivation.

GPT08: The Regular Route passes the crater of volcan Chillan in a 4 km distance but passes also one of the best hot spring of the entire GPT. This hot spring make the Regular Route quite attractive but if the volcano Chillan shows more activity (yellow or orange alert), you might skip section GPT08 completely or take Option 1 via the valley Las Aguilas that keeps 12 km distance to this volcano at all times.

Another interesting option is combining GPT08 and GPT09 in a multi-section hike and taking the optional route GPT08 Option 4 (Ruta Este) on the more remote eastern side of Laguna de Las Lajas.

GPT09 to GPT12: These four sections cross the heartland of the native *Pehuenche* people in the Alto Bio Bio region with fascinating Araucaria forests and a series of beautiful but demanding mountain passes. These sections normally become traversable at the end of November or beginning of December but the best months for hiking these sections are Mid-January to March when the passes are mostly snow-free and when you can harvest *piñones* to supplement your diet with these carbohydrate rich tree fruits.

Consider combining sections GPT09 to GPT12 into a long multi-section hike to avoid spending days in buses to resupply in the towns off the trail. You can stretch your food reserves by eating *piñones* and buying a goat from the *Pehuenche* along the route (they can prepare it for you to have a dinner together and you carry the leftover meat for the next 2 to 4 days). There are also mini-shops at the end of section GPT09 in Trapa Trapa and at the end of section GPT10 in Guallali.

GPT09: Hikers with a fascination for volcanos might clamber up to the summit of the 2979 m high almost perfect conic shape Antuco.

GPT10: Another but more active volcano is the 2997 m high Copahue that can be climbed when taking Option 1 (Termas Pucon Mahuida) and Option 2 (Cumbre Copahue) of section GPT10. This is a moderate detour but requires the volcano to the be calm.

GPT11: A good number of hikers struggled in the past on this section in the steep terrain west of Cerro Dedos. I hope this issue is resolved with the last track update that the places the descent into the valley walking in parts in the stream. If not, then GPT11 Option 5 (Lonquimay) may be taken by hikers that suffer from vertigo. This route was praised by the few hikers that opted for this route despite the long detour.

GPT12: If seamlessly combining sections GPT11 and GPT12 avoid descending on the Regular Route to the regular end point of section GPT11 to the Carbineros Ranquil but consider taking GPT11 Option 1 (Ladera Oeste Cerro Dedos) that remains high up and eliminates a steep descent and similar steep ascent. This of cause, this is only advisable in stable good weather.

GPT13 to GPT15: The three sections GPT13, GPT14 and GT15 guide through lightly populated Pehuenche areas. The route is generally easy walking and navigation is straight-forward but the regular route of these three sections lacks the wild beauty of the more remote areas of the GPT. This and the lower elevation make these sections a suitable option for an early start in October or November. But if you come to Greater Patagonia with limited time and if you do not insist on connecting footsteps you may consider bypassing sections GPT13, GPT14 and GPT15 by bus. To bypass section GPT13 and GPT15 also hitchhiking is feasible.

GPT14: Should you love climbing up volcanos don’t skip section GPT14 as this section passes next to the **mind-blowing** 2282 m high **volcano Sollipulli**. If you briefly leave the regular route to climb up to the crater rim you can look into a 4 km wide glacier filled crater.

GPT16: This section **should not be skipped**. The traverse through the volcanic terrain is impressive but exposed and therefore not recommended early or late in the hiking season. The best timing for this section are December to March.

GPT17H and GPT18: On these sections the GPT dives into the Valdivian rainforest. This lush forest is remarkable dense. GPT17H is generally easy walking but **GPT18 is in parts quite overgrown**. Hikers that feel uncomfortable crawling a few hours through dense undergrowth and battling with dense bamboo gras should consider bypassing these sections. This also avoids

potential right-of-way disputes on GPT18. On section GPT18 a machete might be helpful.

GPT19: This section traverses the Cordon Caulle crater field and passes next to the doment volcan Puyehue making GPT19 one of the **must-see-sections of the GPT**. In 2009 a large eruption of Codon Caulle added a 7 square kilometer lavafield. The exposed and elevated terrain makes suitable weather an essential requirement for a traverse. It is worth waiting a few days on either end of this section to no miss it. A 7 km long side trip leads so some hidden hot springs.

GPT20: The lack of trail maintenance transformed this section into a **demanding bush-bashing** challenge (Status 2020). The former logging road is now blocked by countless fallen trees and a trail section is densely overgrown by bamboo grass. So far, hikers managed to traverse this section anyway but if not re-opened this section becomes impassable. On section GPT20 a machete might be helpful.

GPT21 and GPT22: Hikers that enjoy the **encounter with remotely living settlers** should certainly walk these two sections. The combination of Valdivian rainforest, beautiful mountain lakes, crystal clear rivers and scattered homestead farms makes these two sections unique.

GPT21: Hikers rely on this section on settlers that offer a **motorboat transfer over Lago Todos Los Santos** that is relatively expensive (around 70’000 CLP). So far, all hikers managed to find a willing settler but expect some waiting time if weather is to rough and be prepared to backtrack if nobody is available.

GPT22: This section **consists of a northbound and a southbound sub-section** for practical reasons (a flip-flop facilitates arranging the motorboat transfers on Rio Puelo). Hikers that are in hurry may road-walk the less attractive route GPT22 Option 1 (Carretera Llanada Grande) that does not need any motorboat services and makes a flip-flop less beneficial.

Section GPT22 also crosses at the southern end into Argentina what resets the tourist permit to 90 days when re-entering Chile.

GPT23 to GPT25: A few years ago, the combination of well-maintained trails with some bush-bashing formed an attractive route through two Argentine national parks alongside several pristine lakes. But wildfires in 2015 and 2016 and the lack of park funding for trail maintenance makes this route increasingly difficult to hike. **While the trails of GPT23 and GPT24 remain overgrown and officially closed hikers should consider the Fjord Route instead** (GPT78, GPT77, GPT76, GPT71, GPT70) or restart further south.

GPT23: Hikers that wish to walk this section while the first 13 km of the Regular Route are officially closed might bus or walk to El Hoyo and follow the gravel road in the valley of Rio Epuyen. From there a still very demanding combination of trails, cross-country routes and tough bush-bashing leads to Lago Cholila and on gravel roads to Villa Lago Rivadavia.

GPT24H: The Huella Andina in Parque Nacional Los Alerces is in many parts quite overgrown therefore hikers must opt between battling vegetation or walking on thy busy gravel road. Towards the end of this section hikers may also walk on the beach of Lago Futalaufquen to minimize road walking. The scenic trail from Lago Kruger to Puerto Limonao is unfortunately also overgrown therefore I downgraded this formerly nice route to an optional route only.

GPT25: This section combines barely used trails and infrequently used minor roads to link Villa Futalaufquen with Aldea Escolar. It would not surprise me if the trail conditions worsened since we investigated this route in 2016 but I assume that the Regular Route is still traversable and more appealing than the alternative main road. Anyway, if hikers run into dense vegetation they may leave the Regular Route on half a dozen exit routes that link to the main road to Aldea Escolar.

GPT26: This section is a **pleasant walk** on the eastern edge of the Andes where the mountains transition into the open Argentine Pampa. If someone managed sections GPT23 to GPT25 than he will feel some relieve to not battle with vegetation or demanding route finding on these easy going 90 km. At the end of this section the Regular Route returns to Chile and terminates in Palena.

Make sure to consume all fruits and other fresh items like cheese, sausages, and eggs before crossing the border back into Chile. To avoid a strip search of our backpacks we often have the last fresh items at hand, eat them at the border in front of the SAG inspectors and handover the last garlic glove for disposal. To this subject see chapter 1.8.18 What to Bring and What to Leave on page 138.

GPT27H: In this area the dispute over the international between border Argentina and Chile was not resolved until 1966. Once the border was finally agreed, Chileans could no longer drive their cattle hazzle-free through Argentina and they build a cattle trail between Palena and Lago Verde through the mountains. This **historic trail** is not any more used to drive cattle, but hikers can still walk this **demanding and somewhat overgrown** route ideally in February and March when river levels are relatively low. Earlier or later in the season or after heavy rain one river halfway might simply not be fordable.

GPT28H to GPT31H: The sections GPT28H to GPT31H are of interest for die-hard thru-hikers without a packraft that wish to walk the entire length of the GPT with connecting footsteps during several seasons. Anyone else should **consider skipping these sections** and bus to the start of section GPT32. This 323 km long stretch is nearly 90% road walking with the more attractive trails and car tracks on GPT28H and GPT30H. There is not a lot of traffic on most of these roads so hitch-hiking needs luck.

GPT28H: This barely travelled minor road is easy walking through varied terrain. Hikers that are not allergic to road walking probably enjoy this section especially after a more demanding section like GPT27H. No battling with vegetation, no route finding, just walking on a clearly visible car track.

GPT29H: This 80 km long section on gravel and paved roads is to my opinion the least attractive section of the Main Route but there is simply no legal alternative that hikers may take. The historic route via Lago La Plata would require trespassing though Argentina what probably gets hikers in trouble with the Argentine *Gendarmería* (police).

GPT30H: On this section the road walking is loosened up by occasional trails and cross-country routes. Nothing spectacular but more varied than the section GPT29H.

GPT31H: This route leads on gravel roads through the farmland in the vicinity of Coyhaique.

GPT32 to GPT40: The southern 750 km of the Main Route are **definitely worth to be hiked with connecting footsteps** and this either south- or northbound. Every hiking sections offers some highlights, and the varied terrain makes these nine sections surprisingly diverse. A challenge can be the weather and the trail condition. In the south rain is much more frequent and enduring

than in the north and fallen trees and muddy slow wear down hikers.

GPT32: This section incorporates the now very popular and somewhat overrun Cerro Castillo track but adds a demanding and barely travelled route to the north. This section is normally open between December and March but it may snow anytime of the year in the elevated parts of this route.

GPT33H: This section is a **long scenic detour to** incorporate **the Torres de Avellano**, the Avellano valley and a scenic hike along the cost of Lago General Carrera into the GPT. And these landmarks make this detour worthwhile. Hikers that are on rush may skip this section completely or walk the much shorter Option 1 (Valle Ibanez) which may also be taken if poor weather makes the Regular Route impassable.

GPT34H: This is the ferry crossing over Lago General Carrera. During the busy main season or in windy weather hikers may be forced to wait one or two days. Get your ticket as soon as you arrive in town.

GPT35: The traverse between Chile Chico and Cochrane is a **very scenic and diverse** route in a mostly open landscape. Some river crossings may become impassable during the height of the snow melt and after rainy periods.

GPT36H: **The Ruta de los Pioneros is an iconic trail** in the south with an interesting history. Until the Carretera Austral reached Villa O'Higgins in the year 2000 this was the only land connection within Chile between this settlement area and the rest of the country. With the completion of the Carretera Austral the trail lost its relevance, but this route remains open even is less maintained. In decent weather this route might be hiked between November and April but heavy snow may make this route

temporary impassable anytime of the year.

GPT37H: This is the ferry crossing over Lago O'Higgins. Strong wind on Lago O'Higgins frequently stops all boat traffic. Get your ticket as soon as you arrive in town and be prepared to wait a few days.

An interesting alternative to the Regular Route of sections GPT35, GPT36H and GPT37H is the **network of optional routes on the Argentine side** east of the international border that provide an alternative connection **between Chile Chico and El Chalten**. These routes through the province of Santa Cruz require walking longer distances between resupply villages but the open landscape and the dryer weather permit covering such longer distances on foot. Also, these routes guide around Lago O'Higgins and avoid the only seasonal operational border crossing between Candelario Mancilla and Lago el Desierto. This border crossing opens on November 1 and closes on April 30. This makes these routes appealing for experienced endurance walkers that traverse this region rather early or late in the hiking season or that simply look for a more remote route with lots of cross-country walking in open terrain. These routes are currently arranged into the following options:

- GPT35 Options 7, 8 and 9
- GPT36H Options 13, 14, 15 and 16
- GPT37H Options 2 and 3

GPT38: This section is a **hidden treasure of the GPT** in particular if hikers add the sidewalk to the Glaciar O'Higgens viewpoint and to Glaciar Chico on the peninsula west of Lago Chico. On this section the route crosses from Chile into Argentina if going southbound (or from Argentina to Chile if going northbound). Depending on the weather the shorter and scenic higher Regular

Route can be taken or hikers may deviate on the longer lower route next to the shore of Lago O'Higgens. Hikers that are in a rush may also take the direct gravel road from Candelario Mancilla to Lago del Desierto that bypasses all the scenic landmarks. This is also the route that all cyclists and the bulk of the backpackers take.

GPT39: The route from Lago del Desierto to El Chalten combines a moderately used trail along the eastern shore of Lago del Desierto, some road walking and one to two days on completely overrun hiking-highways in the vicinity of El Chalten. The majority of visitors book a rather expensive accommodation in El Chalten and do two day-hikes from el Chalten to the Cerro Torre lookout and the Monte Fitzroy viewpoint and you will share the trails with these day-hikers.

GPT40: This section is like GPT06 a **perfect start or finish of a hike on the GPT**. In decent weather this demanding and exposed route should become traversable in late November or December and remain open into April but strong wind or a sudden weather change may stop hikers even in mid-summer. It is strongly recommended to rent the gear for using the two Tyrolean traverses (steel ropes over two rivers that are often too powerful for fording these rivers on foot). The view over the massive Glaciar Viedma will create lasting memories.

GPT41 to GPT69: See also chapter 2.2.15 Packrafting the Southern Route | GPT41 - GPT69 on page 422.

GPT41: Since there is no ferry service over Lago Viedma hikers must bus or walk around Lago Viedma. Walking the entire route mean first 108 km on paved roads (or trail-less terrain next to the road) and then 70 km on a gravel road. **I suggest taking one of the frequent buses** from El Chalten to el Calafate and jump off the bus at the intersection where the gravel road to Estancia Helsingfors branches off. **Walking only the 70 km on a gravel road on the southern shore of Lago Viedma** against the wind is

for most hikers enough mental punishment.

GPT42: The reward for walking 70 km on a gravel road of section GPT41 is paid out on this section. A roughly 50 km long route leads on rarely used trails and cross-country from Estancia Helsingfors to Estancia Cristina. But all hikers should add a 25 km to 40 km long detour to the enormous Glaciar Upsala.

GPT43: This is the ferry crossing over Lago Argentino from Estancia Cristina to La Bandera. Hikers that walked GPT41 and GPT42 will need to take a bus from La Bandera to El Calafate to resupply.

Hikers that are not appealed by the idea of walking 70 km on a gravel road on section GPT41 to get to Estancia Helsingfors may skip section GPT41 entirely, bus from El Chalten to El Calafate, resupply in El Calafate, take a bus to La Bandera from where they take the tour boat to Estancia Cristina. Once in Estancia Cristina they may spend several days in the vicinity of Glaciar Upsala exploring this area. Days later they can return with the same tour boat to La Bandera. One benefit of this option is that hikers may resupply in El Calafate not only for section GPT42 but also for section GPT44 and leave the food pack at Estancia Cristina to pick it up before returning by tour boat to La Bandera. This permits combining GPT42, GPT43 and GPT44 in one longer tour.

GPT44: As stated earlier, there is no legal border crossing between Argentina and Chile on the GPT routes that connect Lago Argentina with Torres del Paine. You might try to apply for an expedition permit but this seems utterly complicated. And crossing the border at a *paso no habilitado* (Spanish term for the “green border” beyond an official border crossing) without a special permit gets you in serious trouble with the authorities and possibly deported. Therefore, hikers that insist on walking with connecting footsteps better walk only to the international border, back-track to the last road, take buses to cross the border at a *paso*

habilitado (official border crossing), get at the border the required stamps into the passport, resupply and walk from the other country to the same point at the international border (connecting without crossing). This adds approx. 60 km of backtracking on the same route and 2 or 3 days of bus-travel and town-time but getting an expedition permit will cost more time, money, and cause a great deal of frustration. The Regular Routes of GPT44 and GPT45 draft this backtrack routing without suggesting to illegally crossing the international border.

GPT45: From Puerto Natales frequent buses provide transport to the Torres del Paine National Park. Die-hard thru-hikers that insist on connecting footsteps may walk a 44 km long gravel to the international border and backtrack on the same road. Less compulsive hikers simply cross the Torres del Paine park.

The permitted route through the Torres del Paine park depends on the bookings for specific camp sites. As outlined in the description of the Southern Route, the Torres del Paine national park became overrun and to control the crowd's reservations for camp sites must now be made for specific dates. When doing this on short notice after arrival in Puerto Natales expect that most camp sites are fully booked, especially during the main season from December till February when masses flood this park. Without a reservation, long-distance hikers may bypass the overrun "hiker-highways" and take an alternative route south of Lago Nordenskjöld. This will separate you from the main flux of hikers and you can enjoy the epic panorama of the Cuerno del Paine from a 5 km distance while walking on a less travelled route.

When approaching the southern exit of the Torres del Paine park hikers may evaluate if they make a boat tour to Glaciar Grey or walk to a viewpoint over Glaciar Tyndall that is drafted with Option 8 (Mirador Zapala).

Long-distance hikers that want to bypass this tourist hotspot completely may walk Option 1 (Torres Del Paine Bypass) on the eastern shore of Lago Sarmiento de Gamboa and Lago Toro.

GPT46: This section suggests a very demanding and exposed Regular Route over the mountain range of Cerro Tenerife with a 1238 m high pass that is only recommended in mid-summer in good stable weather. Multiple options provide lower, les demanding and less exposed alternatives.

Alternatively, hikers may try **taking the tour boat that makes regular sightseeing tours from Puerto Natales to Puerto Torres** and back and that visits several glaciers in the Seno Última Esperanza. Hikers that like this tour boat option should actually **consider walking sections GPT46 and GPT45 northbound** to start the hike of these two sections with the boat trip from Puerto Natales to Puerto Torres. Hikers that choose this option may ascent in good weather with a light pack to the 1238 m high pass and clamber to the nearby summit to enjoy the panorama that reaches all the way to the Southern Patagonian Icefield. After this day trip they can walk parts of GPT46 and GPT45 northbound and return to Puerto Natales with one of the many buses from Torres del Paine.

GPT47: This section is mostly road walking, but the Regular Route incorporates a **30 km cross-country traverse of Turbera** which is a unique peatland ecosystem (see www.miresofchile.cl 🌎). This guarantees at least two days with permanently wet feet's while walking but breaks the otherwise endless road walking into two parts and diverts most of this route in a more scenic and less travelled area. The Tubera traverse is best attempted after a few days without heavy rain and without expecting a speedy advance.

Alternatively, Option 1 (Villa Tehuelches) offers a combination of mostly minor roads that promise a faster pace and less obstacles.

GPT48: This section promises an eventless road walk that gets hikers in 3 to 4 days from Rio Verde or Villa Ponsomby (different maps show different names) to the reginal capital Punta Arenas. Chances to catch a bus or hitch-hike are reasonably good.

In Punta Arenas hikers can opt between walking to the most southern continental point of Americas: Cabo Froward or take the ferry to Tierra del Fuego or attempt both.

GPT49: Hikers that opt for Cabo Froward need to take the 57 km long main roads to the historic site Fuerte Bulnes. Instead of walking on this partly busy road I suggest taking the bus to Rinconada Bulnes or San Juan and restart walking on section GPT50.

GPT50: Reaching the most southern continental point of Americas requires a roughly 100 km round trip mostly on trails. Hikers that don't like backtracking on the same trail and that have a more comfortable travel budget may consult the residents in Rinconada Bulnes or San Juan if a boat owner may provide transport to Cabo Froward (or back).

GPT60H: A regular ferry provides transport from Punta Arenas to Porventir on Tierra del Fuego. Before taking the ferry consider a touristic day tour to Isla Magdalena where about 100'000 pinguins breed.

GPT61: A 127 km long road walk gets suborn thru-hikers on an unsheltered wind exposed main road to the tiny village Cameron. Less compulsive hikers can take the bus that travels the same route several times per week.

GPT62: In Cameron hikers can choose between several routes that connect to the tiny settlement Pampa Guanaco. The rule of thumb is: as further south as more remote, diverse but swampy the terrain becomes. So hikers can basically trade speed and comfort with what I would consider attractive but demanding.

The **most practical southbound continuation after section GPT62 is hiking sections GPT68 and GPT69 on the Argentine side** of this bi-national island. Sections GPT63 to GPT67 describe the continuation on the Chilean side but logistics makes these sections an expedition on their own.

Hikers with little time to spare may take the previously mentioned bus from Porvenir all the way to Pampa Guanaco. This makes it easy to skip not only GPT61 but also GPT62 if desired. Hikers that walked GPT61 or GPT62 can take this bus to briefly return to Porvenir to resupply as needed before venturing onto the following sections.

Hikers with much time to spare and without any urge to get to Ushuaia or Isla Navarino may have a look at GPT62 Option 2 (Karukinka Traverse) and GPT63 Option 1 (Valle la Paciencia). This very demanding cross-country route traverses the practically unknown Karukinka National Park. A German hiker traversed this route in 2015 in 3 weeks and issued a German travel report.

GPT63 to GPT65H: Sections GPT63 and GPT64 describe the land route from Pampa Guanaco to Bahia Yendegaia on the Chilean side of this bi-national island. The demanding terrain, the lack of resupply and the legal complications of the international border make a southbound traverse on this route unfavourable. Hikers with an immense appetite for an exceptional remote route may consider a northbound traverse.

Six times per month a resupply ships travels from Punta Arenas to Puerto William in a scenic 32 hour voyage. To my knowledge the ship might stop on request at Bahia Yendegaia. This ferry route is section GPT65H. This ship may permit travelling with all necessary supplies to Bahia Yendegaia to attempt a northbound traverse. If starting on Isla Navarino and intending to hike section GPT64 and GPT63 northbound than hikers may also inquire in Puerto Navarino and Puerto Williams if a boat transfer can be arranged from Puerto Navarino to Bahia Yendegaia after resupplying in Puerto Williams. Hiring a personal transport for this 30 km water route will be expensive but affordable for some hikers. Alternatively, hikers may apply at the Chilean consulate in Ushuaia for a permit to cross the international border from Ushuaia to Bahia Yendegaia on a 7 km long barely used trail. Adventurer familiar with Tierra del Fuego mentioned that this is feasible but takes 2 to 4 weeks processing time.

If starting at Bahia Yendegaia fully equipped in northbound direction than the 160 km route to Pampa Guanaco is within a feasible hiking range as only 40 km are in demanding mostly trail-less train. The remaining 120 km are on a slowly growing gravel road that is currently built to eventually connect this Chilean outpost with the Chilean road network.

GPT63: This section is primarily the gravel from Pampa Guanaco to the western terminus of Lago Fagnano, but the lack of public transportation makes access and resupply complicated and requires special arrangements. Hikes may contact the Estancia Caleta Maria to ask if they are able to provide transport or other types of support.

Hikers that make the effort to venture in this remote corner of Tierra del Fuego should consider hiking the Sendero de la Paciencia in the Karukinka National Park that is documented with GPT63 Option 1 (Valle la Paciencia).

GPT64: This is the land route from the western terminus of Lago Fagnano to Bahia Yendegaia. Based on satellite images from

March 2021 the Regular Route consists of 16 km bush-bashing through a reasonable open forest, 24 km trailless open terrain and 34 km road walking.

GPT65H: This is the above mentioned supply boat route from Punta Arenas via Bahia Yendegaia to Puerto Williams. Best check with the ferry operators if they stop on request in Bahia Yendegaia.

GPT66 and GPT67: Hikers that want to continue one Isla Navarino can take a ferry from Punta Arenas to Puerto Williams or from Ushuaia to Puerto Navarino (for the most practical hiking route to Ushuaia see GPT68 and GPT69 below, if coming from Ushuaia border formalities must be completed on arrival on Isla Navarino). hikers can choose from several routes on Isla Navarino. The Dientes de Navarino circuit starts in Puerto Williams and traverses the main mountain range of this island and gained much in popularity in recent years. Other cross-country routes lead to outposts on the eastern and western coast of this island. Hikers can also walk cross-country to Bahia Windhond on the southern shore where the 1000 km wide Drake Passage separates Americas from Antactica. This is the southern terminus of the Greater Patagonian Trail.

GPT68 and GPT69: The most practical hiking route to traverse southern half of Tierra del Fuego are sections GPT68 and GPT69 on the Argentine side of this bi-national island. The more walking friendly terrain and the resupply towns and villages make this route preferable for most long-distance hikers.

GPT68: From Pampa Guanaco hikers may walk or hitch-hike on the main road to the most southern regular border crossing between Chile and Argentina: Paso Belavista. Here travellers must collect their exit and entry stamp to legally continue on the other side of the international border. After the border the Regular Route traverses cattle grazing land and forests till reaching the

village Tolhuin. This route is neither spectacular nor excessively demanding and should not have sharp seasonal limitations.

GPT69: The Regular Route from Tohuin to Ushuaia provides more diversity and is in parts more exposed to weather. The route between Tolhuin and Estancia Haberton at the Beagle Channel was already used by the indigenous *selk´nam* before European immigrants committed a brutal genocide on this native nation. The trail via Paso Bridges leads through the mountains to Estancia Haberton and is the highest point and highlight of this section. From Estancia Harberton a sparsely used minor road and trails connect along the shore of the Beagle Channel to Ushuaia.

GPT70 to GPT78: See also chapter 2.2.10 Hiking the Southern Route | GPT41 - GPT69

For most hikers cherry-picking from the more attractive sections is the appropriate approach on the Southern Route. The partially long road walking sections make a thru-hike of the Southern Route less rewarding if compared to the Main Route.

The Southern Route can be hiked in either direction. Exceptions where a northbound travel is advantageous are (see arrows):

- Sections GPT46 and GPT45 if taking the sightseeing boat in Puerto Natales that tours the Seno Ultima Esperanza and that may be disembarked at Puerto Torres. This option facilitates preparations for Torres del Paine in Puerto Natales.
- Section GPT64 and GPT63 from Bahia Yendegaia to Pampa Guanaco because organizing a transfer to Bahia Yendegaia seams easier than leaving this isolated outpost after having walked there (better information might change this).

An early start or late finish is feasible, if less exposed options are selected to bypass the higher passes. The primary obstacle when starting from Ushuaia on the Southern Route is probably Paso Bridges that becomes traversable in October or November.

When finishing in Ushuaia than heavy snow likely becomes in issue in April or May.

On Tierra del Fuego the Regular Hiking Route splits in in branches at Pampa Guanaco:

- The more demanding sections GPT63 to GPT67 on the Chilean side
- The less complicated sections GPT68 and GPT69 on the Argentine side

Where walking the Southern Route with connecting footsteps it seams preferable to not even attempt to obtain a permit to cross the international border at the *paso no habilitado* (Spanish term for the “green border”) between Lago Argentino and Torres del Paine. Walking to the border, backtracking to the next road and crossing the border at a regular border control in a busgreatly simplifies planning.

The most southern sections are GPT66 and GPT67 on Isla Navarino that is Chilean territory.

Isla Navarino can be reached by boat from Punta Arenas or Ushuaia or by plane from Punta Arenas. Boats from Ushuaia disembark passangers either in Puerto Navarino or in Puerto Williams.

Hikers that opt for the demanding sections GPT64 and GPT63 may be able to arrange a boat transfer from Puerto Navarino to Bahia Yendegaia in example after having hiked these most southern sections.

Hiking the Fjord Route | GPT70 - GPT78 on page 382.

GPT70 to GPT72: These three sections connect the Main Route with the southern part of the Fjord Route. Hikers that walk the fjord route may either take sections GPT26, GPT70 and GPT71 or alternatively sections GPT71 and GPT72. Both section combinations connect Chaiten with Palena. Both sections combinations incorporate also large chunks of roads. There is no generally preferable hiking direction.

If in a rush and interested in taking public transportation than sections GPT71 and GPT72 are more promising. There are several buses per week that provide transport between Futaleufu and Palena. Also Hitch-hiking is feasible.

If hiking with connecting footsteps than GPT26, GPT70 and GPT71 might be faster and more scenic. This section combination also crosses from Chile to Argentina and returns to Chile. This resets the tourist permit for Chile for another 90 days and is therefore of interest for non-Chileans that spend more than 90 days on the GPT.

GPT70: This section is primarily the gravel road from Aldea Escolar in Argentina to Futaleufu in Chile. There is no regular public transportation but hitch-hiking is feasible.

GPT71: The Regular Hiking Route is a combination of mostly scenic horse trails and barely used minor roads from Futaleufu to the Hot Spring Termas de Amarillo. From the Termas de Amarillo it is 30 km on mostly paved roads to Chaiten. Hikers without the any appetite for road walking may take public transportation or try hitch-hiking. Early in the season or after a rainy period, rivers might be swollen, and fords might be too dangerous to cross. If uncertain, then a southbound hike seams favorable as this places

the critical river crossings more towards at the start of the trails making backtracking somewhat shorter.

GPT72: This section combines parts of the primary road from Futaleufu to Palena with minor roads and some trails. Hikers that are interested in rafting might book an organized rafting trip on Rio Futaleufu without returning to Futaleufu but continuing south-bound

GPT76: The coast between Chaiten and Caleta Gonzalo is sparsely populated but these settlements are not connected with a continuous road to the Chilean road network. The road from Chaiten terminates in Chana. After 20 km on partly muddy trails a 22 km long gravel road starts that terminates again 10 km before Caleta Gonzalo. This 22 km short unconnected road is mostly on the beach or next to it and ferries provide several times per week a connection to Chumilden. Unfortunately, the timetable and connections are not well published. Therefore, hikers should consider a northbound walk to either take a ferry from Chumilden to Caleta Conzalo or arrange motorboat transfer with one of the settlers in Loyola to Caleta Conzalo. The cost for this 10 km boat trip should not bust the travel budget of most hikers. If lucky, someone may also arrange a motorboat transfer from Caleta Conzalo but there are less settlers (and motorboats) in Caleta Gonzalo than in Loyola (or Chumilden).

GPT77: This section connects Caleta Gonzalo with Hornopien. The fastest an easiest option is the large ferry that connects both locations in a 5 hour voyage. Alternatively, the water journey can be broken into two pieces by first taking the ferry between Caleta Conzalo and Fiordo Lago and then second ferry from Leptepu to Hornopiren. For schedules best consult in Caleta Gonzalo.

A more interesting but much less frequent option is the subsidized motorboat that occasionally serves the settlers in Fjordo Comau, Canal Cholgo and Canal Hornopiren. Best consult the Municipalidad in Hornopiren for this only infrequently possible

option. This might also permit a stop at the Termas Cahuelmo.

GPT78H: The connection from Hornopiren to Cochamo incorporates of a scenic hiking route from Hornopiren to the village Rio Puelo that passes the flanks of Volcan Yates. The hiking trail up to Lago General Pinto Concha is well maintained and regularly walked by hikers but the onward connection to Rio Puelo was shrouded in mystery till this demanding route was first recorded and published in season 2019/20. The two solo-hikers that walked this route with the paid guidance of a settler from the northern terminus of this traverse were amazed. But residents from Rio Puelo stated that some settlers dispute the right-of-way on this traverse. Therefore, when walking southbound you may be expected to hire a guide, or the settler becomes ill-tempered and may dispute your right to walk this route. When walking northbound you will leave the disputed sector when reaching the settlers home and you may try to sneak by unseen.

From Rio Puelo hikers may walk, hitch-hike or bus the gravel road to Cochamo. Alternatively, hikers may resupply in Rio Puelo and connect to section GPT22. For this, hikers must get to Lago Tagua Tagua, take the ferry over this lake from where it is just an 8 km road-walk to the Regular Hiking Route of section GPT22. This route connects either to Cochamo (northbound) or El Bolson (southbound).

Add images to discussion of section selection for hiking.

2.2.13 Section Analysis Tables and Statistics

A detailed tabular display of all sections is in the Appendix in chapter 3.11 Section Statistics and Track Nomenclature starting on page 1225 at the end of the Hikers Manual.

- Table 170: Section Location and Section Planning Status
- Table 171: Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence
- Table 172: Hiking Travel Direction
- Table 173: Packrafting Travel Direction
- Table 174: Section Travel Timing Recommendation
- Table 175: Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time
- Table 176: Hiking Route Composition
- Table 177: Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time
- Table 178: Packrafting Route Composition
- Table 179: Track Classification and Nomenclature
- To be added: Table: Section Attractiveness and Difficulty Rating to be issued.
- To be added: Table: Options Overview to be issued.

2.2.14 Packrafting the Main Route | GPT01 - GPT40

The published GPT route network aims to document all feasible routes and leaves the choice of a specific route and the method of travel (walking or paddling) to each hiker and packrafter. Therefore, all generally feasible packrafting routes are incorporated in the GPT route network even in areas where packraft deployment is limited.

On sections GPT01 to GPT16 of the Main Route **packrafting is marginal**. A packraft can deployed only on 57 km of the 1187 km long route (4.8%). See Chart 8 on the next page. This makes for me and many others a packraft more burden than benefit especially with the continuous up and down on these more mountainous northern sections (50’300 m ascent on 1187 km). Therefore, most packrafters have opted to either store the packrafting gear in a safe location while hiking these northern sections or to start directly on section GPT17P.

Starting packrafting on section GPT17P permits also an early start making this a generally favourable option. When we began the investigation of the GPT in 2013 we set out in mid-November on GPT17P without encounter a substantial seasonal obstacle all the way to GPT22.

Another benefit of starting on section GPT17P is that the first water bodies of the Regular Packrafting Route are not too demanding and offer several bail-out land routes (Rio Cuacua, Lago Neltume, Lago Pirihueico, Lago Maihue). The large wind-exposed lakes and the high-volume rivers further south require more packrafting skills and expertise.

Section GPT40 is an impressive finish but on this circuit with long steep ascents and descents a packraft is just a burden. So better leave your packrafting gear in custody in El Chalten or carefully hide it near the trail head to which this circuit returns.

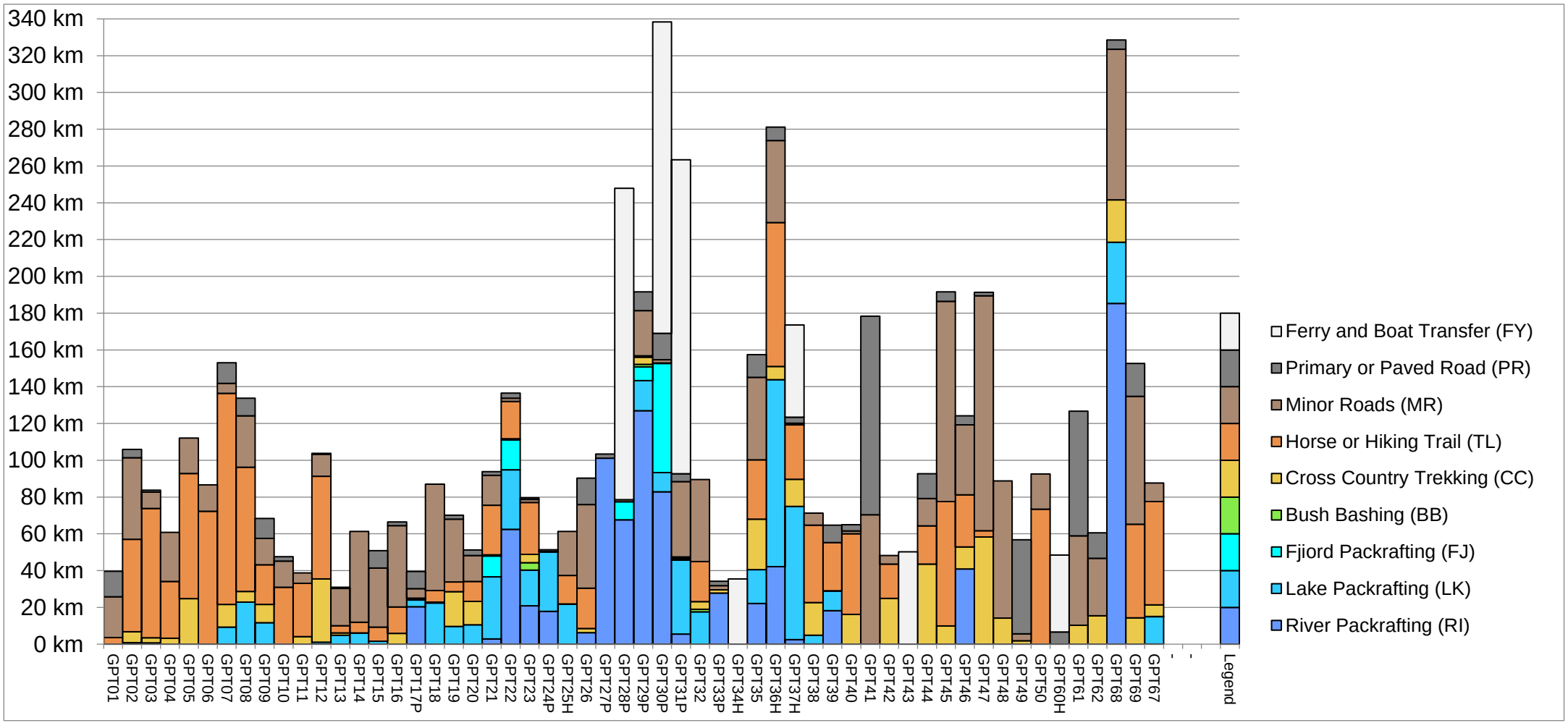


Chart 8: Main Route and Southern Route: Terrain Composition of Regular Packrafting Route excluding most Exploration Sections

The flow direction of several rivers and the predominant wind direction on several lakes makes **southbound packrafting on the Main Route generally preferable**. Such sections and water bodies with a clear southbound preference are:

- GPT17P: Rio Cuacua
- GPT18: Lago Pirihueico
- GPT23: Lago Cholila and Rio Carrilleufu
- GPT24P: Rio Calihuel and Rio Arrayanes
- GPT27P and GPT28P: Rio Palena
- GPT31P: Lago Riesco, Rio Blanco, Lago Portales, Lago Zenteno, Lago Elizalde
- GPT32P: Lago Desierto and Lago Azul
- GPT33P: Rio Ibanez
- GPT36H: Lago Cochrane, Rio Tranquilo, Rio Mayer
- GPT36P: Rio Baker, Fiordo Mitchell
- GPT39: Rio de Las Vueltas

A temporary northbound alternation of the travel orientation (flip-flop) is only recommended for the few sections of the Main Routem, where the flow direction of rivers makes a continuous southbound travel impossible:

- GPT22: Rio Puelo that requires northbound packrafting
- GPT29P: Rio Picacho that requires northbound packrafting
- GPT30P: Rio Risopatron that requires northbound packrafting

The flip-flop on section GPT22 is best done by:

1. Travel with public transportation to the packrafting start halfway into section GPT22
2. Packraft a part of GPT22 northbound (Rio Puelo, Lago Tagua Tagua and Estuario de Reloncavi, see Satellite Image 60)
3. Take the same public transportation the same packrafting start halfway into the section GPT22
4. Packraft reminder of GPT22 southbound (Lago Las Rocas, Lago Interrior and Lago Puelo, see Satellite Image 61)

A similar suggestion applies to section GPT29P. The only difference is that on section GPT29P the northbound part is best packrafted after the southbound part to connect section GPT29P in Puerto Cisnes seamless with section GPT30P.

Fife packrafting sections of the Main Route have a difficulty rating of 6 on a scale from 1 to 5 (off-scale difficulty rating). This means attempting these sections is particular challenging and inappropriate condition may impede a successful traverse. Therefore, a carefully evaluation is required before attempting any of these fife sections:

- GPT25P Lago Amutui Quimey
- GPT29P Valle Picacho
- GPT34P Lago General Carrera
- GPT36P Rio Baker
- GPT37P Peninsula La Florida

See the Chart 9 on the next page, that includes all particular challenging packrafting sections.

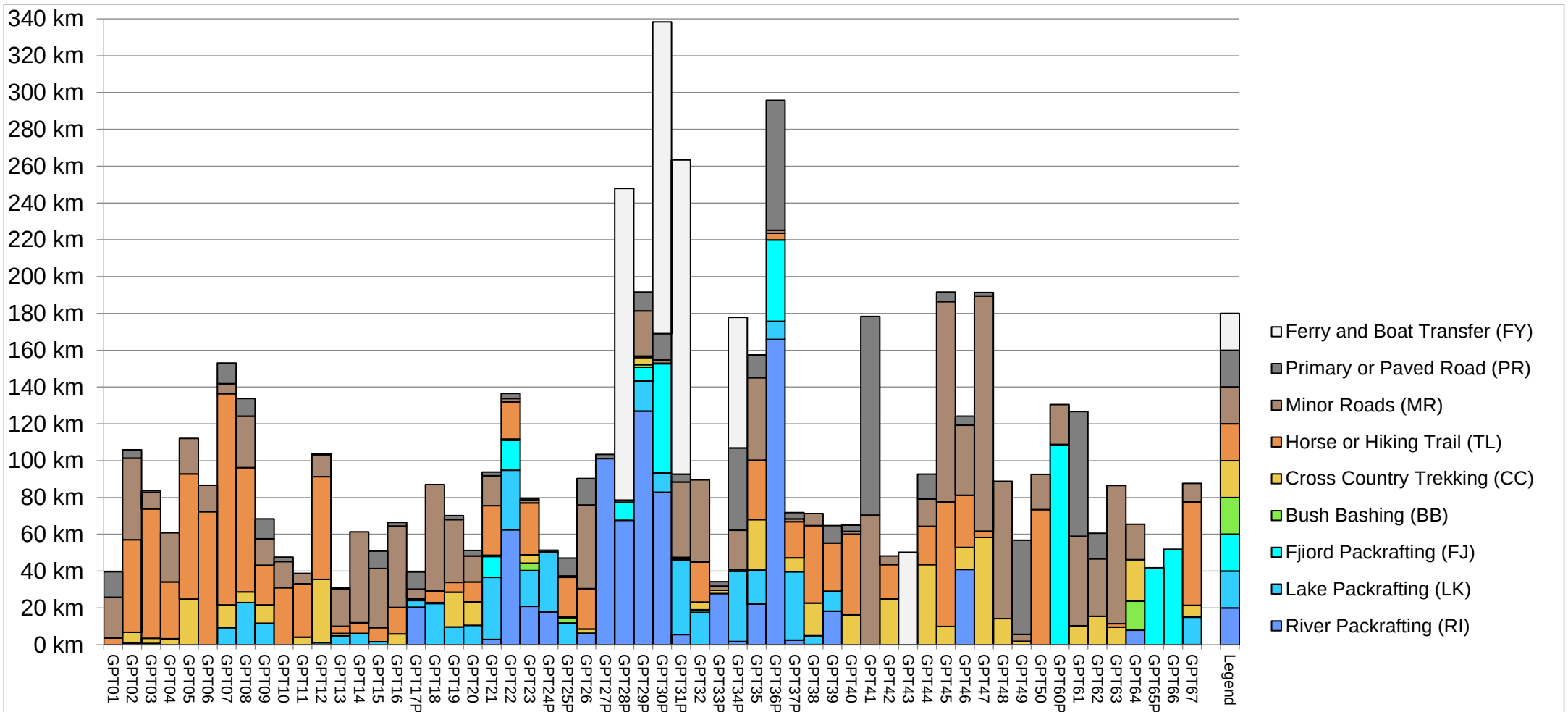


Chart 9: Main Route and Southern Route: Section Evaluation of Regular Packrafting Route **including all particular challenging sections**

The exploration route of section GPT25P requires a packraft crossing of the artificial lake Amutui Quimei. This lake is infamous for its gale-force wind and high waves. The lake forms a gap through the main mountain range making it a wind channel. Especially at the eastern end of the lake waves can build up to several meters' height. This makes a packraft crossing very challenging and waiting time for a two-hour-window with low-wind should be scheduled. Also, the old trails became partly overgrown because the risen lake level flooded the old land connection from Lago Kruger to Aldea Escolar. If you hate bush-bashing and waiting for the wind to calm down (possibly days) than better bypass this section by paddling and hiking GPT25H instead.

Section GPT29P requires some very demanding bush-bashing. And what makes this traverse formidable; once you floated down Río Picacho there is no way back and you must bush-bash your way through two kilometers of Valdivian rain forest with a machete to portage around two dangerous rapids. We investigated this section in a group of five and enjoyed the adventure. But for quite some packrafters this potentially epic adventure can quickly turn into nightmare. Therefore, consider bypassing this section by bus or by taking the ferry that connects Raul Marin Balmaceda with Puerto Cisnes and Puerto Chacabuco.

Section GPT34P requires a packraft crossing of the Lago General Carrera. Similar to the lake Amutui Quimei, the Lago General Carrera is an open gap in the main mountain range making it a wind channel. Wind and waves can get that powerful that the big ferry between Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez and Chile Chico gets occasionally suspended. So, crossing Lago General Carrera by packraft at the 3 km wide narrow requires more patience than bravery if you want to make it to the opposite shore alive. You may need to wait days for the wind to calm down. Therefore, I generally suggest taking the ferry from Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez to Chile Chico instead. This ferry crossing is section GPT34H.

Section GPT36P incorporates packrafting on the Río Baker. Two rapids need to be portered and head wind can be fierce

especially towards the river mouth where Río Baker flows into the sea at Caleta Tortel. The powerful eddies and boils that are difficult to spot on this high-volume river can be even trickier. A challenge is also the 40 km long fjord packrafting route from Caleta Tortel to Río Bravo. Wind exposed and with only few suitable camp sites someone needs to wait for a rare low-wind day in Caleta Torel. And, after leaving Caleta Tortel packrafters must be prepared to build an improvised camp at the steep fjord coast if wind and waves forces you out of the water halfway. Therefore, the better choice for most packrafters is section GPT36H. The Regular Packrafting Route of GPT36H offers 50% packrafting and plenty of adventure.

The exploration packrafting section GPT37P crosses mostly unverified terrain. The mountainous Peninsula Florida is roughly 40 km long and 15 km wide and on three sides enclosed by wind-battered Lago O'Higgins. A handful of settlers life along the shoreline and breed cattle. To move their livestock to Villa O'Higgins they maintain a few rarely used animal tracks. On the southern end of the peninsula is a 4 km wide narrow of Lago O'Higgins. Strong wind makes this narrow most of the time impassable but in a calm hour the opposite shore may be reached by packraft. Anyone attempting this section needs to carry plenty of extra food and be patient to wait for a rare opportunity to cross this lake. This makes the ferry from Villa O'Higgins to Candelario Mansilla a much more predictable alternative. This ferry crossing is section GPT37H.

By opting for these less demanding and more plannable alternatives the overall difficulty rating becomes less alarming without compromising on attractivity. See Chart 10 on the next page in which the particular challenging packrafting sections are replaced by the corresponding hiking sections that still contain plenty of packrafting routes.

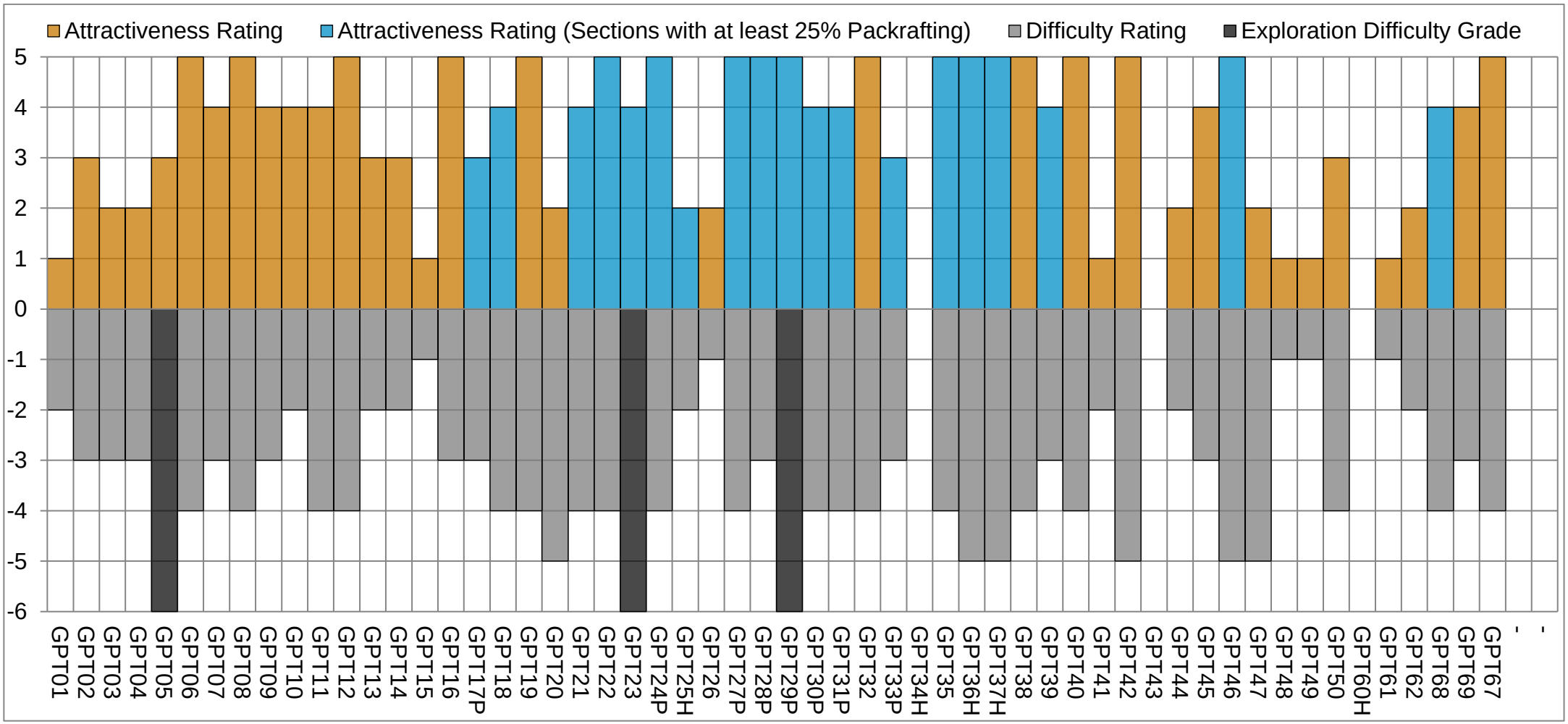


Chart 10: Main Route and Southern Route: Section Evaluation of Regular Packrafting Route **excluding most Exploration Sections**

The correct timing of a packrafting adventure on the GPT requires a good understanding of the climate in Patagonia. Generally, on lakes and in fjords wind is the limiting factor and on rivers the flow rate. Both, the wind and river levels, follow seasonal patterns but unusual weather events can alter these patterns. Therefore, be prepared to adapt your plan based on the actual weather.

During midsummer wind is generally stronger than in spring and autumn but storms can occur anytime of the year. This makes an early start and a late finish of a packrafting adventure on the GPT not just feasible but favourable if appropriate sections are chosen for the start and the finish.

Some rivers are best navigable when the flow rate is above average (i.e. during snowmelt) while other rivers should only be packrafted at or below normal water levels (i.e. after snowmelt). But heavy rain can transform most rivers into dangerous beasts anytime of the year. This can mess up every well-planned itinerary so packrafter must be more adaptive than hikers to realign their plans based on the actual packrafting conditions.

Packrafters that plan a traverse of sections GPT17P to GPT40 in a full season may start earliest in Mid-November or better in early December on section GPT17P going southbound. In a typical year this timing will probably avoid substantial flip-flopping and leaves 4 to 5 months of generally suitable weather (Mid-November or December to March or April). These 4 to 5 months are easily filled with this adventure that exceeds 2000 km in particular if adding some options and side trips. Starting in early December on section GPT17P will make a traverse of sections GPT19 and GPT20 somewhat difficult as large snow field need to be crossed. Also, section GPT23 will be demanding as river levels are likely to be still rather high. But we crossed these sections with such a timing in a typical year with a normal season weather pattern.

Packrafters that wish to depart already in late October or early November on the Main Route may attempt the sections GPT33P to GPT40 first. Such an early start is not without risk as on section GPT35 and GPT36H blizzards can cover the higher ground deep in snow in November so caution is required. Once El Chalten is reached a northbound return with public transportation will take several days but this provides a welcome rest[66]. A restart may be done either in Liquiñe at GPT17P or in Curarrehue at GPT16[67] to tackle remaining sections from GPT 16 or GPT17P to GPT32.

A suitable option for an even early start is the fjord route from section GPT76 to GPT78 that has practically not seasonal limitation. Also, some sections of the Southern Route may be attempted early or late in the season. But more to this in the following chapters.

[66] The fastest and simplest option is travelling by bus from El Chalten to Bariloche and then take further buses to return to Chile. A slower but more attractive and more expensive option is taking a bus from El Chalten to Puerto Natales from where a weekly ferry carries passengers (and cars) to Puerto Montt (4-day-voyage through the Patagonian fjords).
[67] Section GPT16 is very attractive therefore packrafters should consider including this section in their itinerary even if this section does not incorporate packrafting.

2.2.15 Packrafting the Southern Route | GPT41 - GPT69

The southern tip of Americas is surrounded and filled by water. Countless fjords, lakes and river may create the impression that a packraft is the perfect travel companion for an unmotorized traverse of this region. But this impression is misleading. Frequent heavy wind makes packrafting in the Roaring Forties between Puerto Montt and the Southern Patagonian Icefield quite a challenge but in the Furious Fifties further south wind gets worse. And **the Southern Route is in the Furious Fifties** spanning from Latitude 49.3° South to 55.3° South.

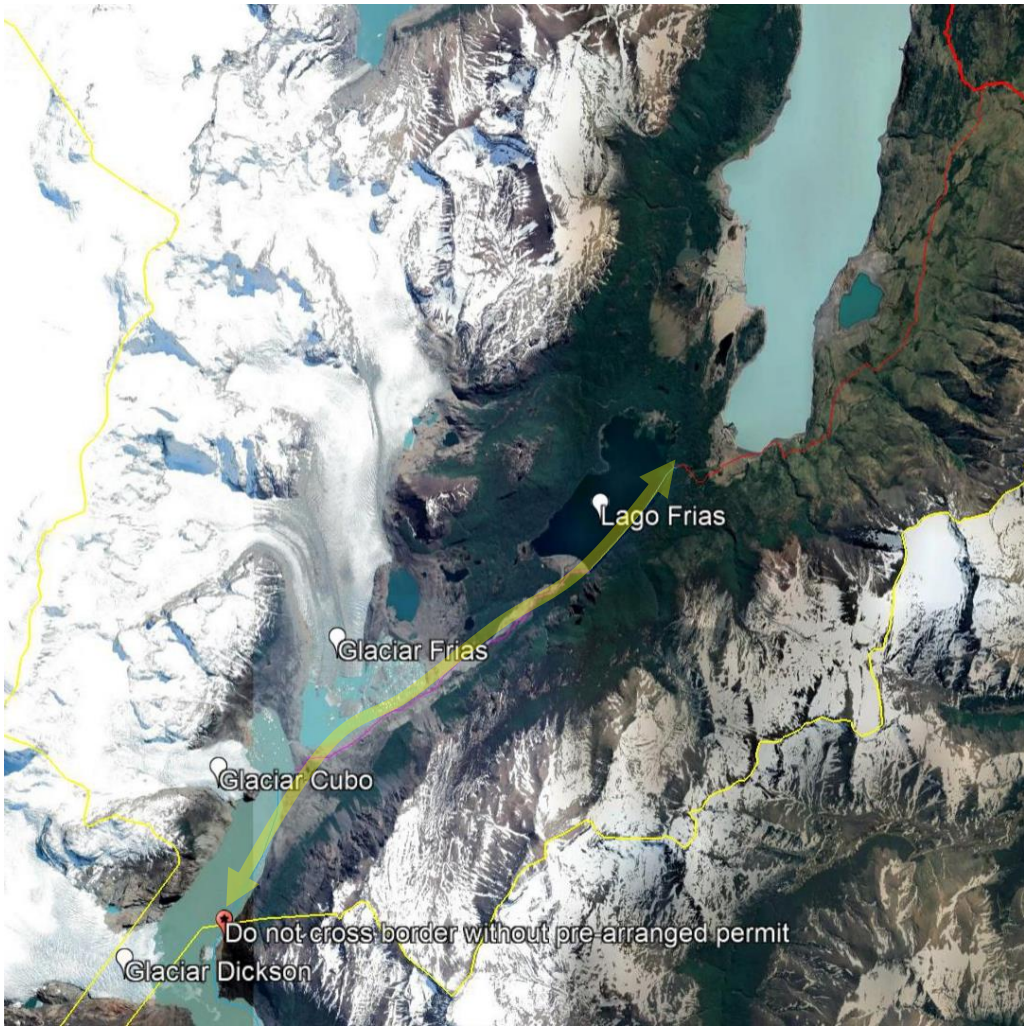
Especially in summer wind is often strong and enduring. This means that packrafting on the Southern Route is either not attempted at all or preferably with a more wave resistant decked packraft in spring or autumn. Also, an opportunistic attitude is required: packraft when feasible but keep walking the alternative land routes when wind and waves impede paddling. **Packrafting in the Region Magellanes and on Tierra del Fuego is like having an affair with a beautiful lady that is married to a jealous and violent husband**: if the husband is out of house, you might sneak in for an amorous tête-à-tête but be always ready to grab your cloth and run out of the backdoor whenever you hear the key unlocking the door.

With this said as introduction, I now outline selected packrafting options along the Southern Route.

GPT44 Option 2 Lago Dickson AR: This packrafting side trip from Brazo Sur of Largo Argentina leads to the international border on Lago Dickson and returns on the same route. The route passes next to Glaciar Frias, Glaciar Cubo and Glaciar Dickson. The lake packrafting requires a few calm hours but the high surrounding mountains shelter these lakes reasonably well when wind comes from the west.

I image that this can be a very rewarding side trip for packrafters with an open or decked packraft that are not in a rush and that are willing to haul their heavy gear a good distance simply to visit three glaciers in such a remote corner.

Getting a permit to cross the international border seams complicated therefore this route is suggested as a side trip only and not as a traverse.



Picture 238: GPT44 Option 2. Image: Google Earth

GPT45 and GPT46 Rio Serrano and Lago Tyndall: Hiking in the National Park Torres del Paine is highly regulated Therefore, I suspect that packrafting Lago Grey requires a permit. Also, wind on this exposed lake is often impeding packraft traverse.

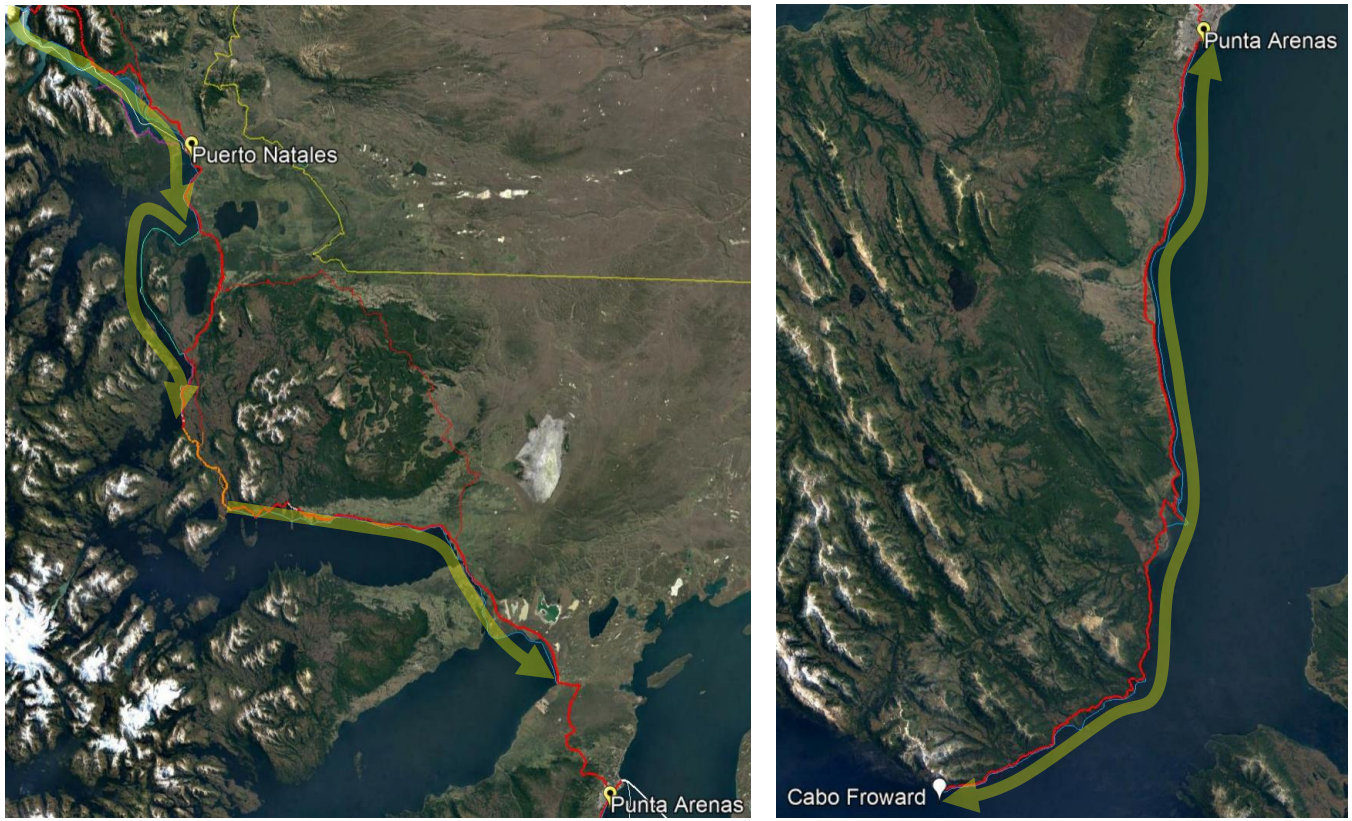
Outside of the park boundaries (or at least beyond the overrun hikers-highways) less regulations are applicable or enforced. Rio Serrano, Lago Tyndall and Lago Geike at park periphery and therefore less in the spotlight of park rangers and get occasionally packrafted. Option 8 and Option 9 of section GPT45 and the Regular Packrafting Route of section GPT46 sketch these routes.

These packrafting routes appear manageable with an open or decked packraft.



Picture 239: GPT45 and GPT46 Packrafting. Image: Google Earth

Fjords and coastline of GPT46 to GPT50: From a couch perspective the fjords and the coastline of sections GPT46 to GPT50 look tempting, but I suspect that calm hours with reasonable small waves are not frequent. Therefore, packrafters need to opt if either lightening-up by not carrying a packraft or if carrying a packraft despite not knowing how frequently the boat may be deployed.



Picture 240 and Picture 241: GPT46 to GPT50 Packrafting. Image: Google Earth

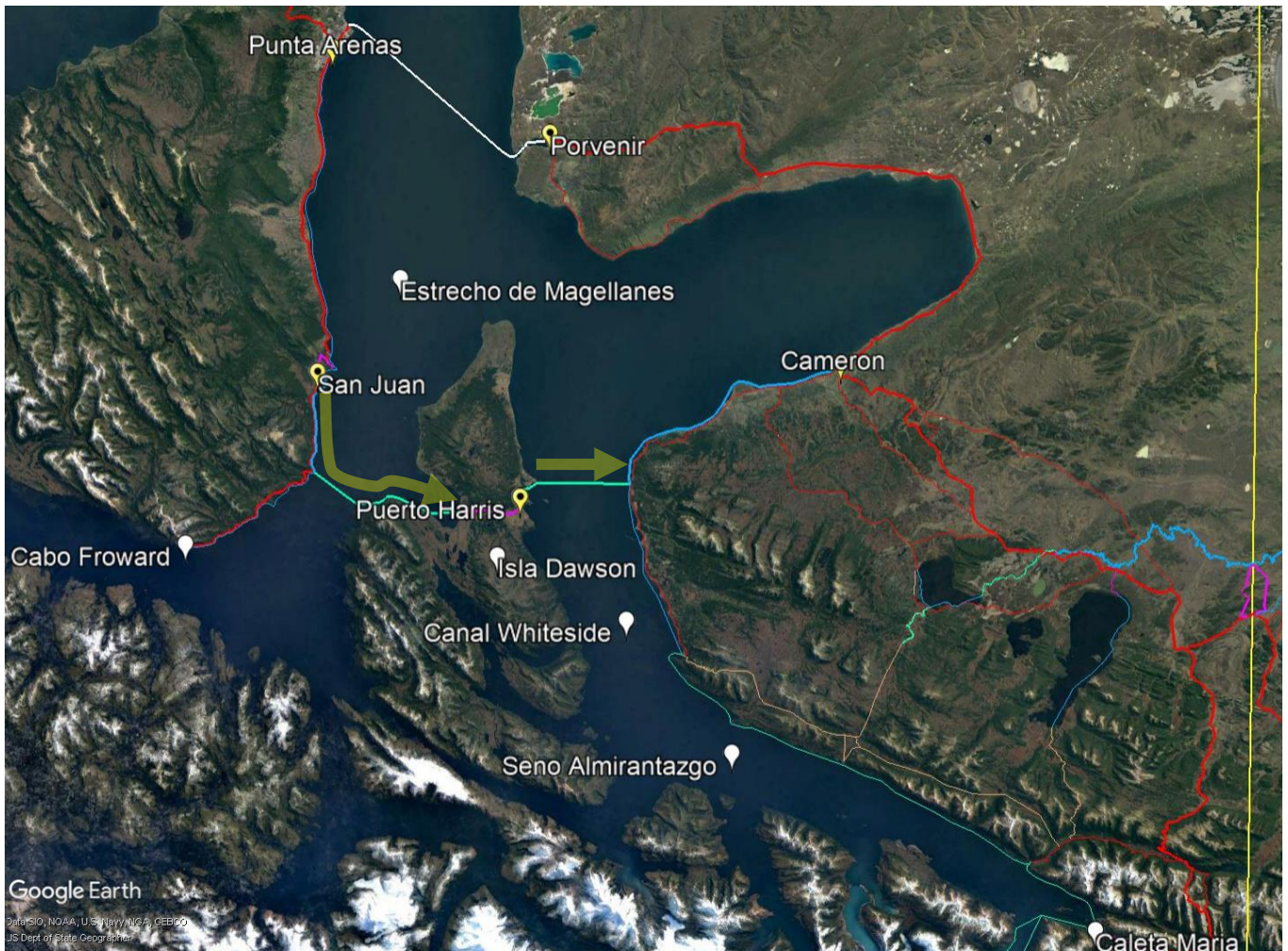
A good part of the optional packrafting route is next to a minor road what makes switching between walking and paddling fairly easy. But parts of the optional packrafting route are far away from any alternative hiking route to quickly bail out when needed.

On section GPT50 (trail to Cabo Froward) a packraft may be deployed in calm weather or simply serve to cross the partly deep river fords. But care must be taken to not being blown off the coast if the wind increases and blows in an unfavorable direction.

GPT60P Estrecho de Magellanes and Canal Whiteside: I'm unsure if a crossing of the and Canal Whiteside could be reasonable safe in a decked packraft or if this requires a sea kayak. Also, Isla Dawson may be a military zone and crossing the island may require a special permit that must be arranged first.

The shortest crossing of the Estrecho de Magellanes is 9 km and the crossing of Canal Whiteside is 15 km wide. The widest fjord crossing we did so far was 6 km and the idea of more than doubling the distance does not comfort me (even if sailing in wind direction).

A safer alternative is arranging a motorboat transfer from San Juan to Isla Dawson, cross the island on foot and arranging a second motorboat transfer in Puerto Harris to Tierra del Fuego.



Picture 242: GPT60P and GPT62 Option 5 Packrafting. Image: Google Earth

GPT62 Option 5 Seno Almirantazgo: It remains to be verified if packrafting Seno Almirantazgo is feasible. Wind normally blows with force in south-eastern direction towards Caleta Maria.

If such a packrafting expedition is attempted, plenty of food should be carried and packrafters should be prepared to bail out and wait or walk if strong wind and high waves prevent packrafting.

The best time for such an expedition is probably spring or autumn when wind calm weather is more likely.

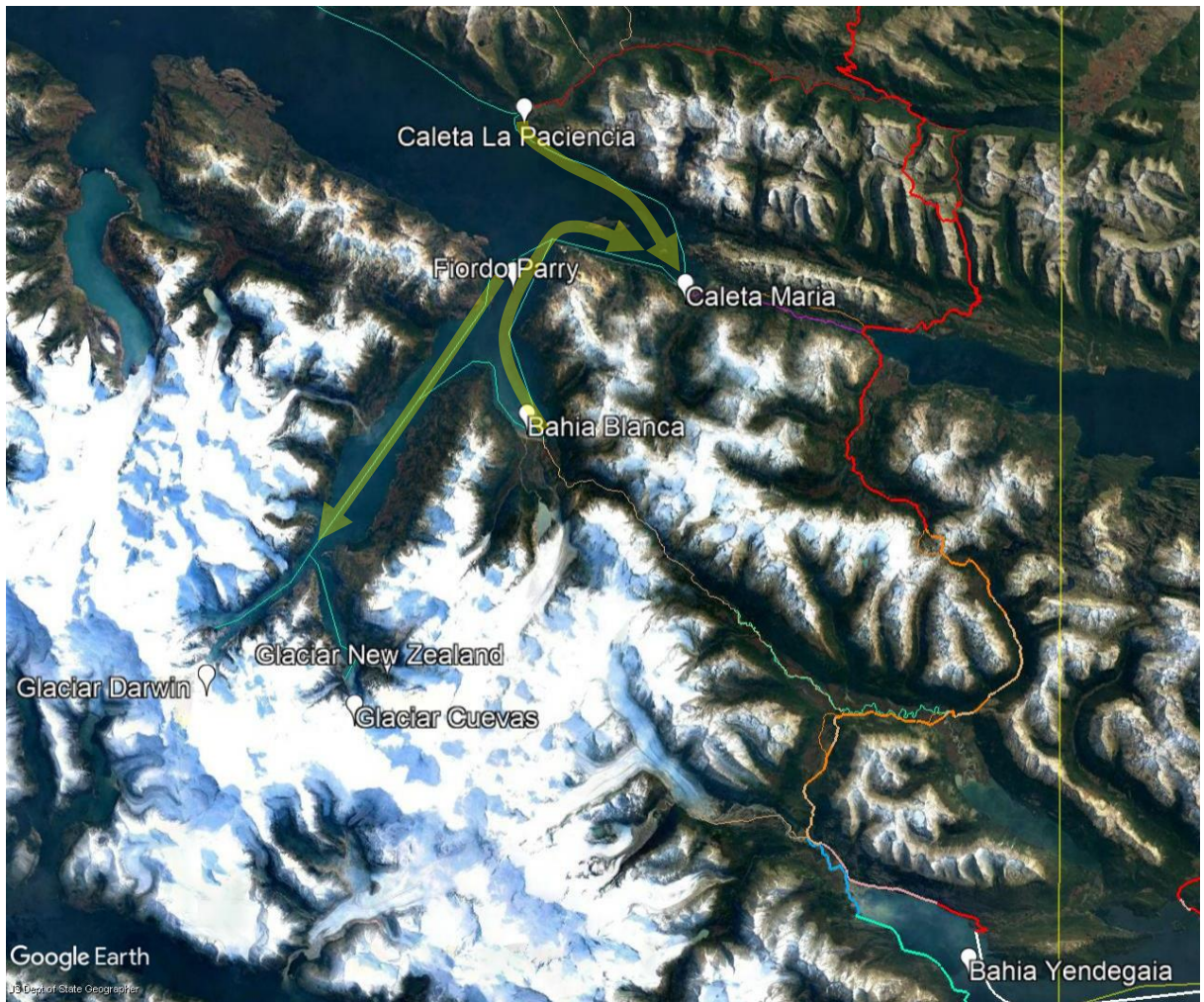


Picture 243: GPT60P and GPT62 Option 5 Packrafting. Image: Google Earth

GPT63 Option 1 and GPT64 Options 2 and 3: On the Chilean side of Tierra del Fuego at the eastern terminus of Seno Almirantazgo several packrafting expeditions may be attempted:

- Walking the Sendero de la Paciencia in Parque Karukinka and packrafting the 20 km from **Caleta de La Paciencia to Caleta Maria** to avoid back-tracking on the same route. See YouTube.
- Investigating the route from Bahia Yendegaia to **Bahia Blanca** and packrafting **to Caleta Maria**.
- Investigating **Fiordo Parry** from Caleta Maria. See YouTube and YouTube.

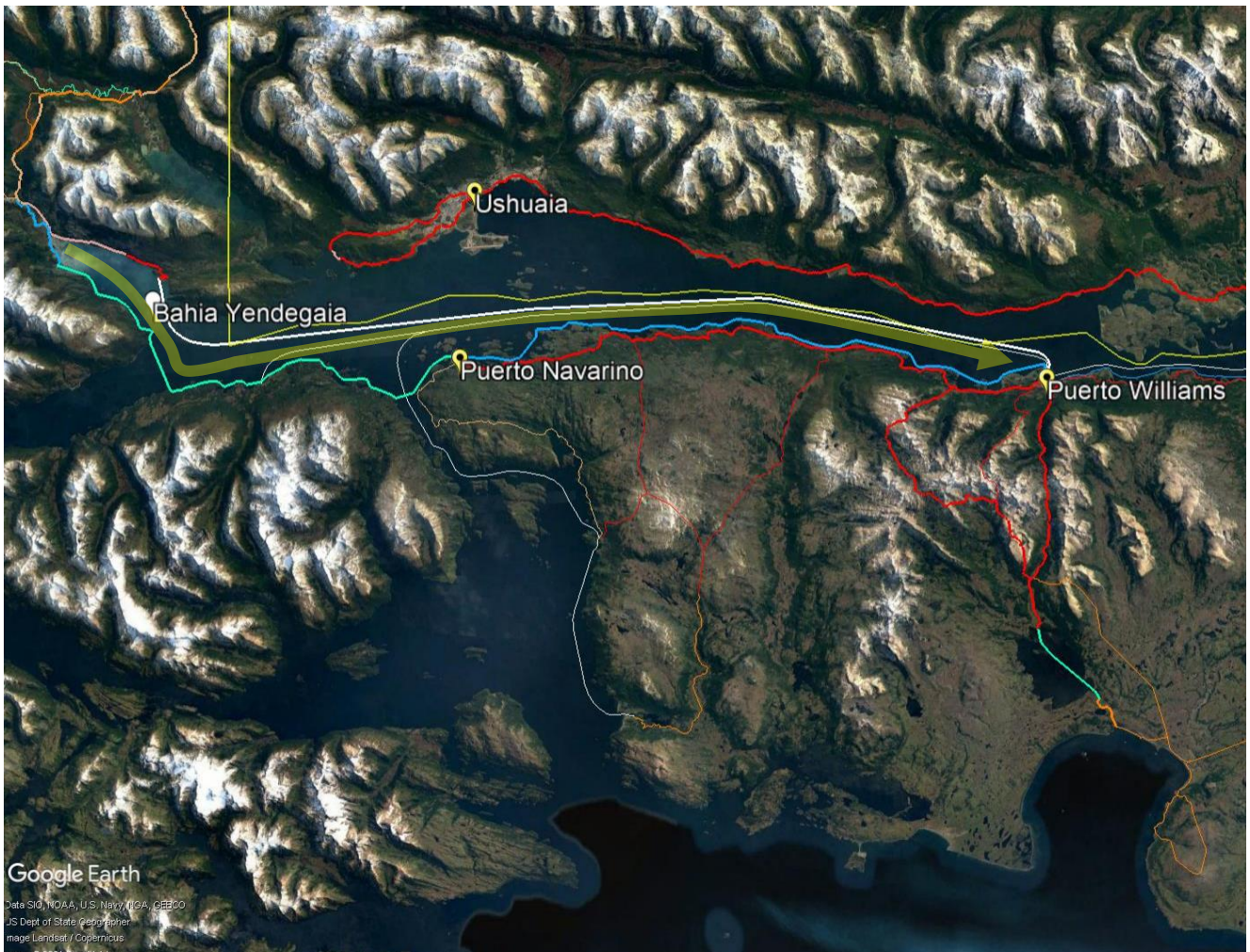
I suspect that Fiordo Parry is better sheltered from wind than Seno Almirantazgo but all three suggested expeditions require several hours of calm weather to traverse the eastern terminus of Seno Almirantazgo.



Picture 244: GPT63 and GPT64 Packrafting. Image: Google Earth

GPT65P and GPT66: **Crossing** the 4 km wide **Canal Beagle** will probably require some waiting time for a few calm hours and the first settler is reached after paddling a further 8 km along the coast. Once Puerto Navarino is reached packrafters can either walk the gravel road or packraft along the **Chilean coast of Canal Beagle** depending on what the wind permits.

This packrafting expedition probably requires a permit by local authorities what might be difficult to obtain.

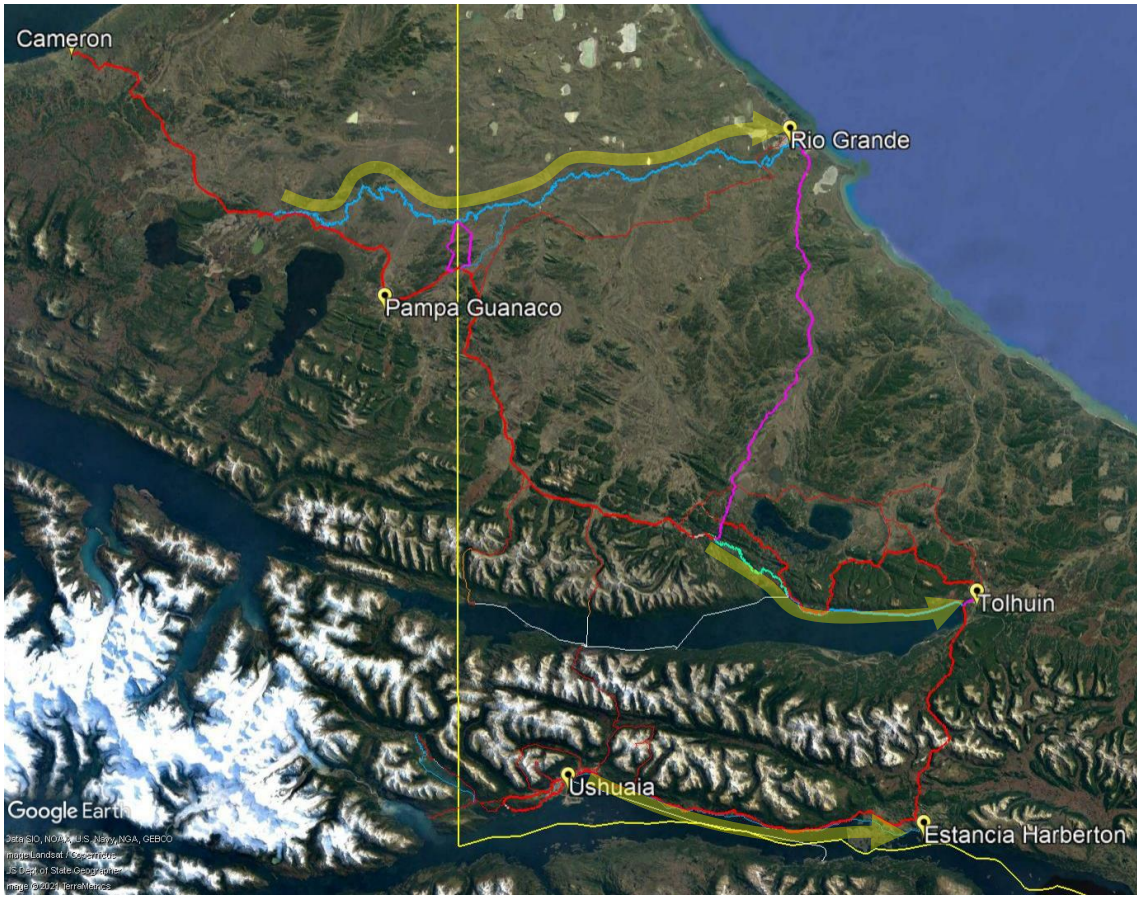


Picture 245: GPT65P and GPT66 Packrafting. Image: Google Earth

GPT68 and GPT69: A open or decked packraft may also be deployed on the Argentine side of Tierra del Fuego.

Rio Grande may be packraft starting in Chile and finishing in Argentina at the Atlantic in the port town Rio Grande. To legally cross the international border exit the river at the border, walk cross-country to the Chilean border post, get your exit stamp, road-walk into Argentina, get your entry stamp and return cross-country to Rio Grande. Expect that strong wind will interrupt at times the 152 km long river raft.

Rio Claro and Lago Fagnano may be packrafted to Tolhuin (65 km). Strong wind and high waves on Lago Fagnano may force packrafters to wait or to walk through the forest along the coast. I doubt that crossing the 5 km wide Lago Fagnano with an open packraft is a smart move.



Picture 246: GPT60P and GPT62 Option 5 Packrafting. Image: Google Earth

Packrafters should consider flipping the travel orientation of section GPT69 to packraft and hike from Ushuaia to Tolhuin. This permits packrafting in the dominant wind direction along the **Argentine coast of Canal Beagle from Ushuaia to Estancia Harberton** (up to 68 km on water).

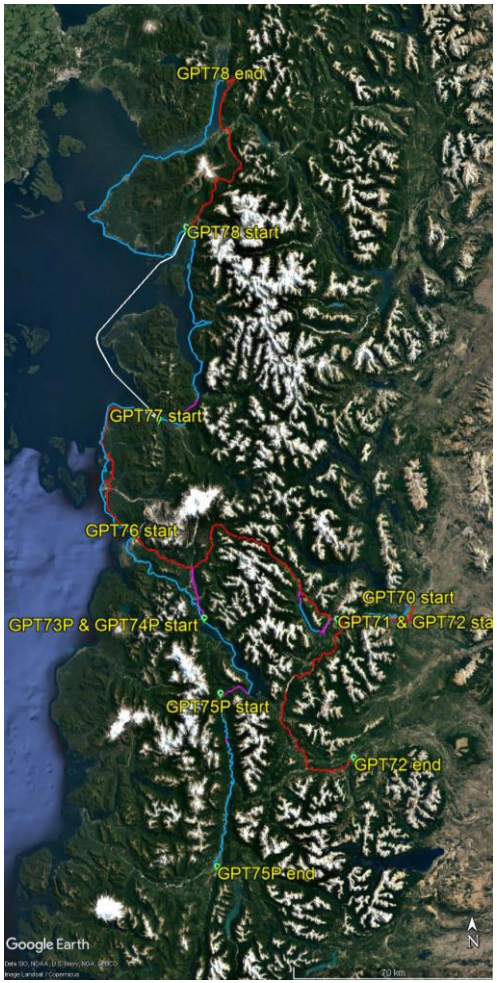
2.2.16 Packrafting the Fjord Route | GPT70 - GPT78

The Fjord Route is defined by water: white glaciers that cover the mountaintops, numerous deep blue lakes that feed powerful rivers, and the Patagonian fjords into which these rivers drain their clear water. All this is garnished with frequent and enduring rain. This rain waters an exceptional dense Valdivian Rainforest that covers every square meter between the sea level and the treeline with an impenetrable green blanket. Only the steepest mountain walls remain uncovered by this green cover and add other shades to the otherwise green and blue colour spectrum.

Settlers establish a few footholds along the coast to harvest from the land and the sea[68]. They selected the slightly inclined locations, cut down the rainforest to create patches grazing land for their livestock. Packrafting this coast is therefore an experience of nature and culture.

The Fjord Route is an attractive option for packrafters that don't feel an urge to get as fast as possible south. Anyone choosing from these costal packrafting routes will spend days waiting for the wind to calm down or turn into a favourable direction. It's for gourmet packrafters that want to assemble their own journey by combining diverse packrafting routes into a customized voyage.

Sections GPT70 to GPT75P and GPT78H are inland and provide a connection to the coast. Sections GPT76 to GPT78P are at the coast or in the fjords.



Picture 247: Fjord Routes. Image: Google Earth

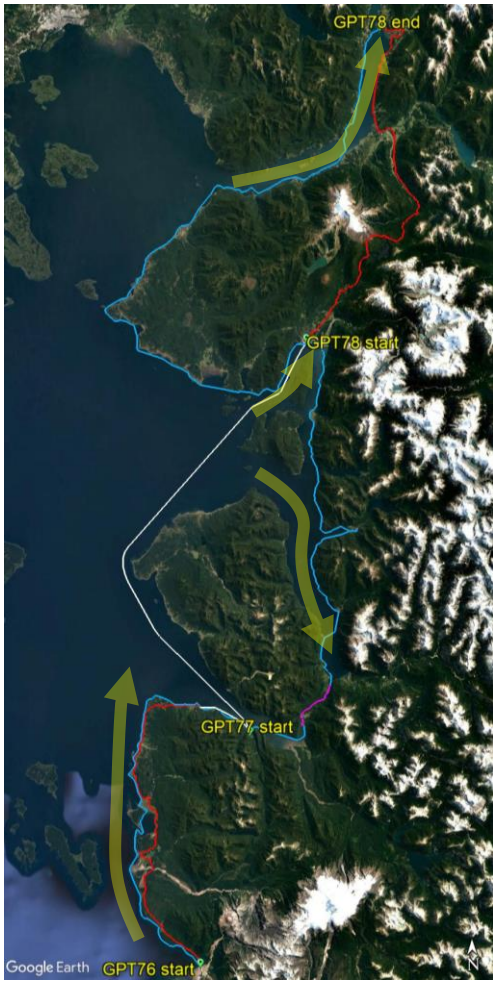
[68] Settler inland are concentrated at the border with Argentina where precipitation is lower and land travel via the Argentine simplifies living.

In the fjords and at the coast the seasons cause less restrictions for packrafters. There is nothing like swollen rivers or snowfield that stop hikers on land routes. Therefore, packrafter can make an early start in spring or a late finish in autumn on sections GPT76, GPT77 and GPT78P.

Sections GPT76 and GPT78P follow a mostly habited coast close to an alternative land route with frequent water exits. This makes these two sections more suitable for open packrafts and packrafters with a limited packrafting experience at sea.

Section GPT77 leads through steep fjords with only few exit locations and NO alternative land route. Suitable camp sites are up to 20 km apart. Therefore, this section is best travelled with a decked packraft and plenty of open-water experience. A daily ferry provides an alternative to those packrafters that lack the equipment or experience for this demanding fjord section and that need to connect section GPT76 with GPT78P with motorized transport.

On nice sunny summer days (which are unfortunately not too frequent) wind tends to pick up in the late morning blowing northbound and calms down in the evening. Locals call this wind *viento sur* because it typically comes from the south. But mountain ranges may redirect this wind as shown with arrows on the map. On the more common rainy and overcast days wind typically comes from the west or the north. Wind from the east is called *viento Puelche* and is more common in the winter. Therefore, no travel direction is clearly preferable for section GPT77. Days with an overcast sky and light rain are typically the calmest days and ideal for packrafting.



Picture 248: GPT76 to GPT78.
Image: Google Earth

When we investigated section for the first time GPT76 to GPT78P we opted for northbound travel and got lucky with a good number of nice sunny days with *viento sur*. This permitted us to sail parts of the route northbound. In Estuario de Reloncavi we sailed the final 35 km northbound in only 5 hours on an early afternoon and evening.



Picture 249: GPT78 Canal Hornopiren. Image: Jan Dudeck

Tidal currents can be annoying in some parts of the fjords but less along the open coast. Especially in the mouth of Estuario de Reloncavi we were surprised to paddle against a current of 2.5 km/h while entering the fjord during a rising tide. Later, local residents explained, that in this fjord a layer of less salty water floats on top of regular seawater and permanently flows out of the fjord even during rising tides. With falling tides, the outbound current is even stronger. Such tidal currents are well noticeable when the weather is completely calm. With some wind the effect of tidal current is normally overruled by the effect of the wind.

Ferries and buses may be used to flip-flop on sections GPT76, GPT77 and GPT78P depending on the predicted weather and wind.

There are two generally suitable options how to connect sections GPT76 to GPT78P (coast and fjords) southbound with the Main Route. Both options require a flip-flop because Lago Yelcho (GPT73P) and Rio Yelcho (GPT74P) are best packrafted in opposite directions due to the northbound river flow direction and the southbound predominant wind direction on Lago Yelcho.

Rio Yelcho (GPT74P) is a packraft delight. This high-volume river is surprisingly calm despite the high river speed (up to 15 km/h). There are just two minor rapids that can be spotted from some distance away. The start of this section can be reached by bus or when hitch-hiking from Chaiten to Puerto Cardenas. When reaching the Pacific, the wind either give you the permission to packraft through the Ensenada Chaiten all the way to the village Chaiten or forces you to walk the final kilometers. There are plenty of water exits and camps along this river.

Lago Yelcho (GPT73P) is a different beast. Wind can be fierce and suitable camp sites are far between. The predominant wind direction makes southbound crossing of this lake clearly favourable. We packrafted this lake in an open packraft but I would have felt more comfortable in a decked packraft. Along the first 13 km are two suitable camp sites. Trickier are the following 22 km to the southern lake exit. There are two or three emergency camps and just one settler off route along the lake shore. Nearly all the shore rises steep out of the water and even leaving the boat for a pee might need some acrobatic hopping on rocks and trees. We broke our crossing into two days to get on day one to the last suitable campsite and departed with sunrise on day two to reach the southern exit before noon when wind and wave often become unpleasant.



Picture 250: GPT76 to GPT78.
Image: Google Earth

Packrafter that feel now discouraged to attempt a crossing of Lago Yelcho may:

- hike section GPT71 southbound to Futaleufu,
- travel by bus form Chaiten to the village Palena and restart with section GPT27P or
- bus or hitch-hike from Chaiten to Santa Lucia and continue with GPT75P (see comments to Rio Frio below).

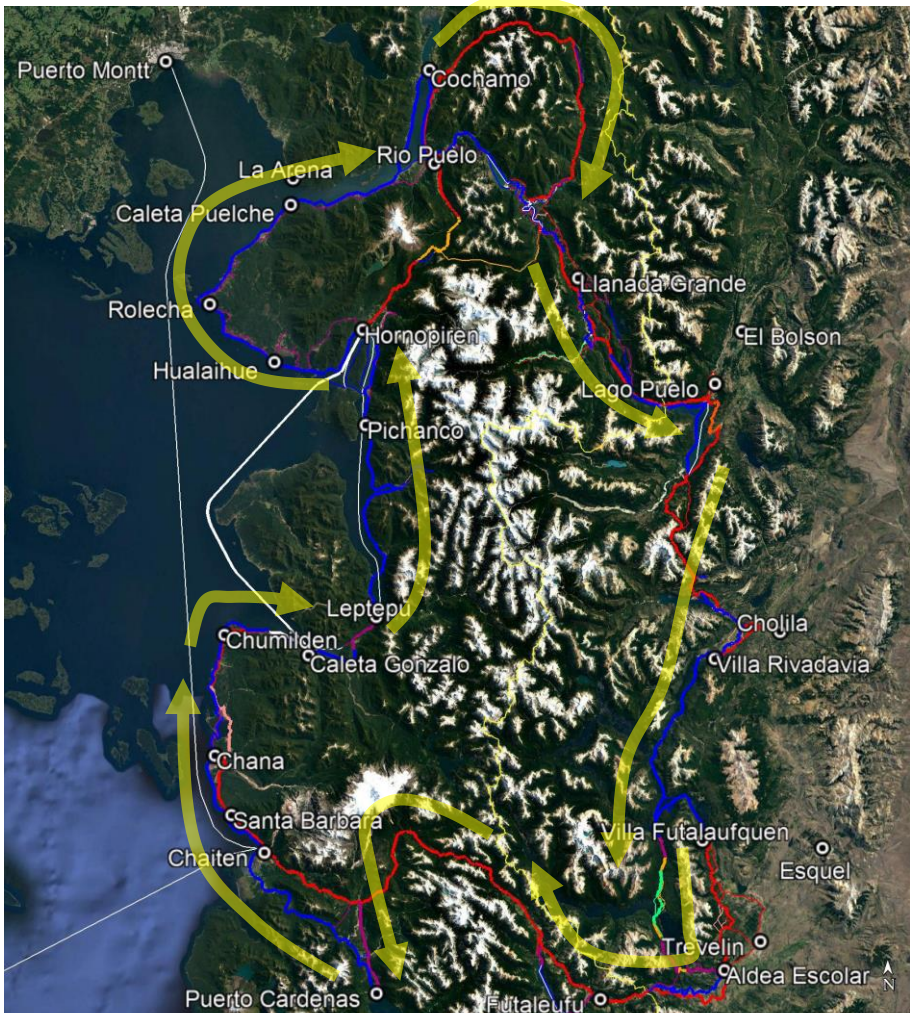
From the southern terminus of Lago Yelcho packrafters can either opt to walk or bus to Rio Palena (section GPT27P) or continue with Rio Frio (section GPT75P).

The distance from Lago Yelcho to Rio Frio is just 16 km short, but the rather low water level of Rio Frio and several Class 2 or even Class 3 rapids make this river less suitable for packrafting. Especially after several days without rain Rio Frio will be too shallow to avoid ground contacts and force packrafters repeatedly to step out of the boat to pull it over shallow gravel banks. But packrafters with some white-water experience may prefer this 37 km river section of Rio Frio provided some rainy days filled and accelerated this river with an extra portion of water.

For the majority of packrafters connecting from Lago Yelcho to Rio Palena will be preferable. On foot this is a 40 km road-walk but packrafters can try to hitch-hike to the village Palena or may get luck to catch one of the rural buses to this village. The benefit of connecting to Rio Palena is that packrafters can enjoy the full length of this scenic river raft into Pacific (approx. 180 km) and not just the lower part from Villa Vanguardia where Rio Frio contributes to Rio Palena (not missing the upper 62 km on Rio Palena).

A completely different but equally attractive option is combining the Fjord Route with the Main Route into a closed circuit. The six sections GPT70, GPT71, GPT74P, GPT76, GPT77, GPT78P can be combined with four Main Route sections GPT22, GPT23, GPT24P and GPT25H or GPT25P into an 850 km long packrafting loop. Roughly 70% of the distance is on water and the full circuit can be paddled and walked in approximately 8 weeks[69]. This circuit passes Cochamó, El Bolson, Villa Lago Futalaufquen, Futaleufú, Chaiten and Hornopiren and is only feasible in clockwise direction. Any of these towns makes a suitable start and finish point.

This circuit combines exposed fjord packrafting with demanding bush-bashing and rewards with epic river and lake paddling. Weather will be volatile especially on the western half and some waiting time for suitable weather must be budgeted. On the more remote parts of the circuit guests will not see other humans for days but on other parts of circuit visitors will regularly meet settlers that make a living in with a combination of livestock breeding, homestead farming and fishing. This makes this circuit an authentic experience of the land the people of central Patagonia.



Picture 251: Central Patagonian Packrafting Circuit

[69] This estimated duration includes an allowance for waiting, some rest time and resupply days.

2.2.17 Packrafting the Packrafting Specials | GPT80P - GPT92P

As stated earlier, the Packrafting Specials are best described as demanding expeditions into mostly unpopulated wilderness. This puts the Packrafting Specials in a different category. Only experienced packrafters should contemplate with these sections and base their choice and preparation on independent research.



Picture 252: GPT91P Lago and Glaciar Reichert.
Image: Meylin Ubilla

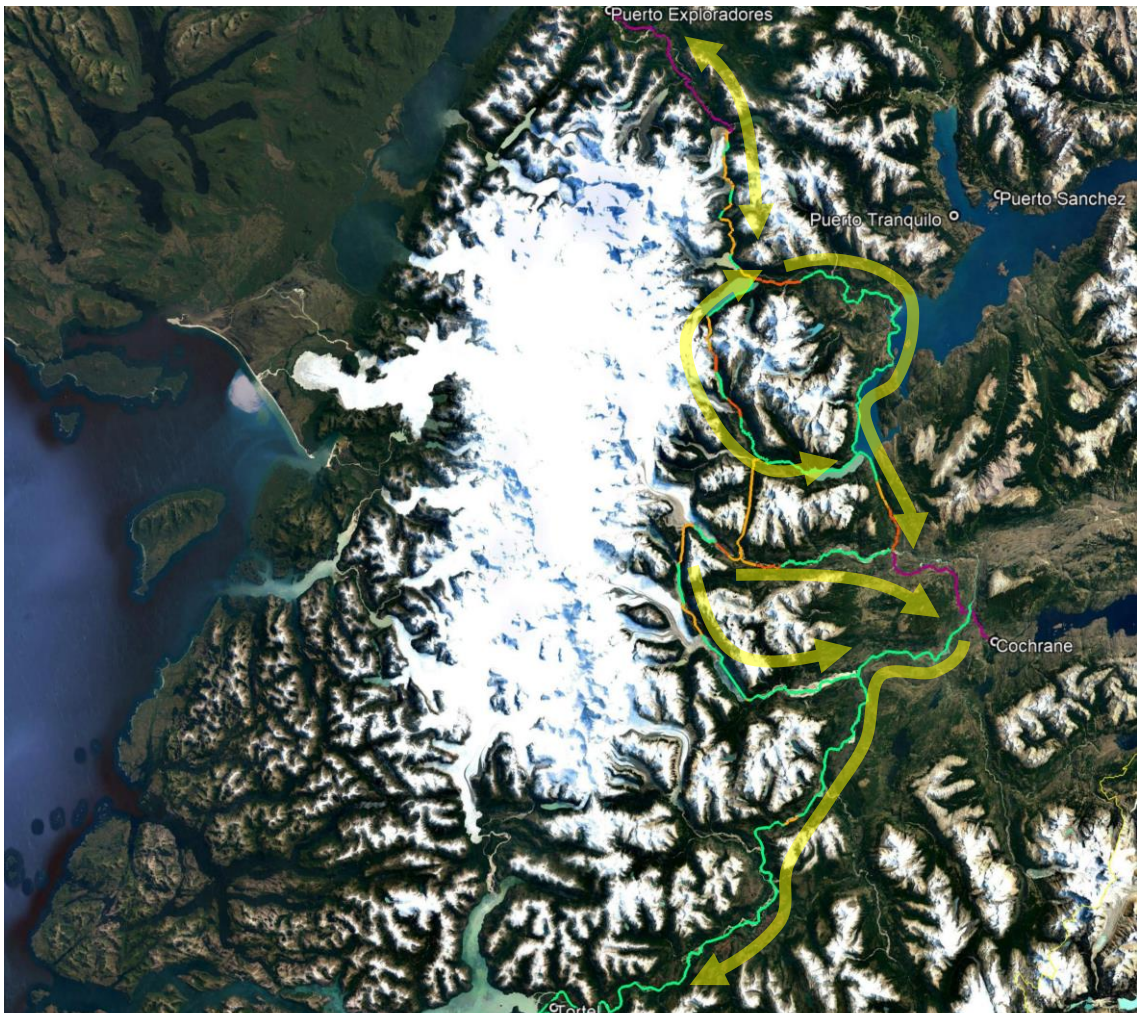
We have travelled only few smaller parts of the Packrafting Specials and based the suggested routes primarily on travel reports of others and on satellite images. Examples of such sources are:

- GPT81P: Wikiexplora: Lago Leones
- GPT82P: The Aysén Glacier Trail
- GPT82P: Thomas Richter Travel Report
- GPT90P and GPT91P: 13 Degrees of Patagonia
- GPT91P: Jose Mijares: Patagonia en Packraft
- GPT91P: Antofaya Travel Reports
- GPT92P: Wikiexplora: Glaciar Steffen

The GPT documentation does not intent to provide comprehensive and complete information to the Packrafting Specials but aims to show which routes have been hiked and packrafted by others before.

2.2.17.1 Eastern Land Traverse (GPT80P to GPT82P)

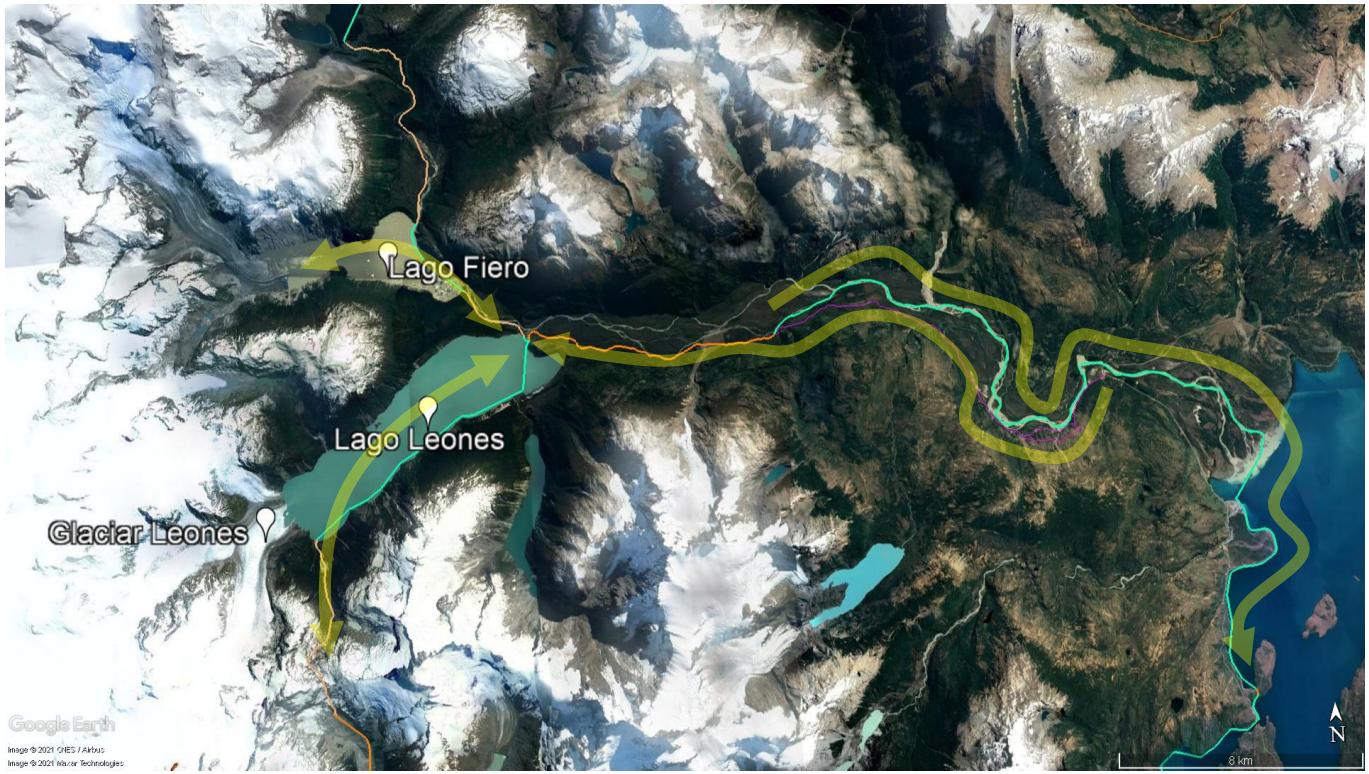
The eastern routes consist of sections GPT80P to GPT82P and are right on the eastern (continental) edge of the Northern Patagonian Icefield. These routes cross wind-beaten glacier lakes filled with floating blocks of ice and ride down glacier feed rivers. Also, tiresome bush-bashing and climbing very steep exposed passes is required on some of these routes. Some of the valleys leading to the Northern Patagonian Icefield are used as grazing land for cattle but there is no resupply along or near these remote routes. Therefore, I do not suggest a full traverse but rather exploring individual sections or parts of it. Attempting one or two of these sections is adventure enough and if you still have the appetite for more adventure, then you may seamlessly add a float on the Río Baker into the Pacific (section GPT36P).



Picture 253: Northern Patagonian Ice Field Traverse (Eastern Option)

An example for such a mini-expedition is walking up the valley Leones and venturing by packraft on Lago Leones and Lago Fiero. Packrafters with white-water experience may return by rafting parts on Rio Leones and continue along the shore of Lago General Carrera if wind permits.

To prepare such a mini-expedition, research other accessible resources. In this specific case useful information is provided on Wikiexplora and search the internet for recent publications to this route. You may talk also to the locals along the route and adventure travel agencies that may provide transport and logistical support.



Picture 254: GPT80P and GPT81P: Lago and Glaciar Leones. Image: Google Earth

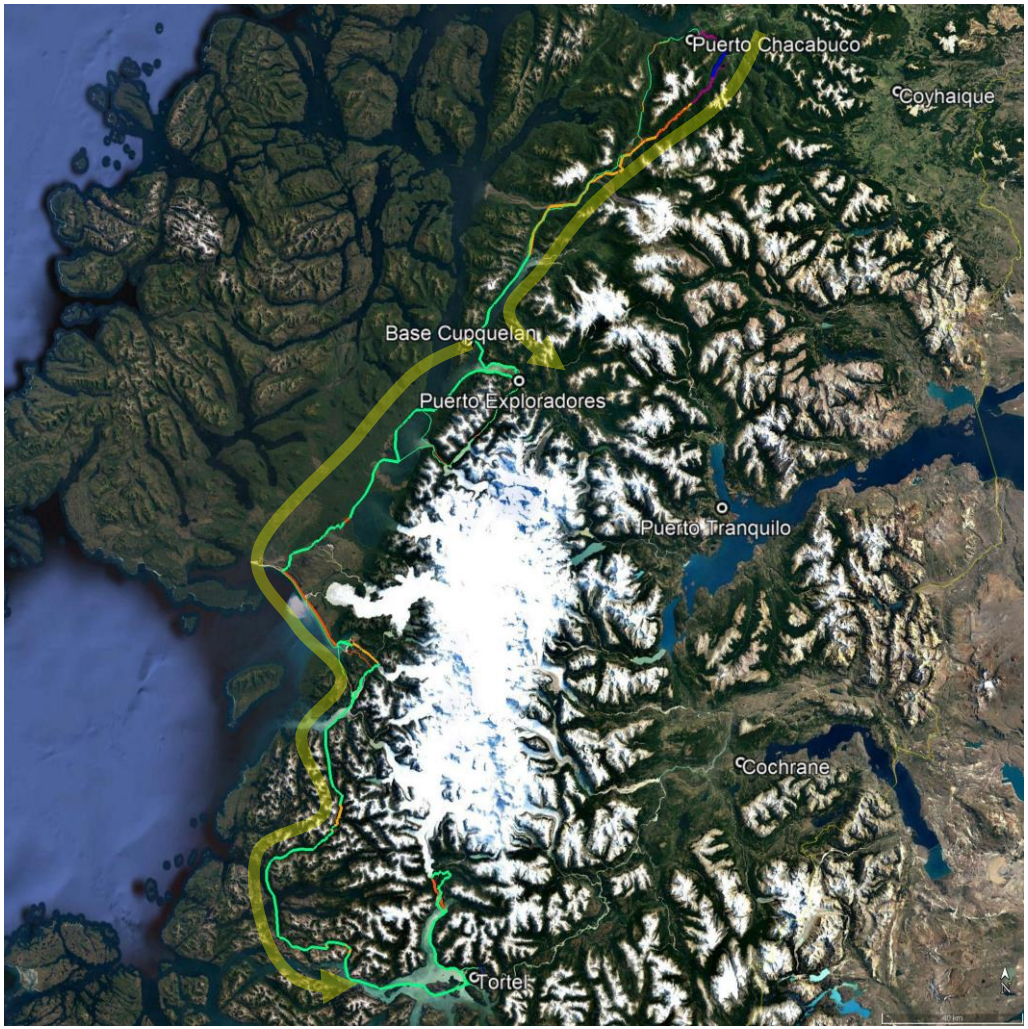
2.2.17.2 Western Fjord Traverse (GPT90P to GPT92P)

The western route consists of sections GPT90P, GPT91P and GPT92P and snakes mostly through the fjords on the western edge of the Northern Patagonian Icefield.

Section GPT91P is the most exposed and isolated route of the entire GPT network. Before considering a traverse of section GPT91P, travel sections GPT90P or GPT92P as a testing and proving ground.

If tempted by these traverses, consider also travelling (first) parts of these routes. In the following I describe a couple of options that somewhat shrink the challenge without missing on the highlights of these routes.

Before venturing in this remote area, you must obtain a permit from local authorities.

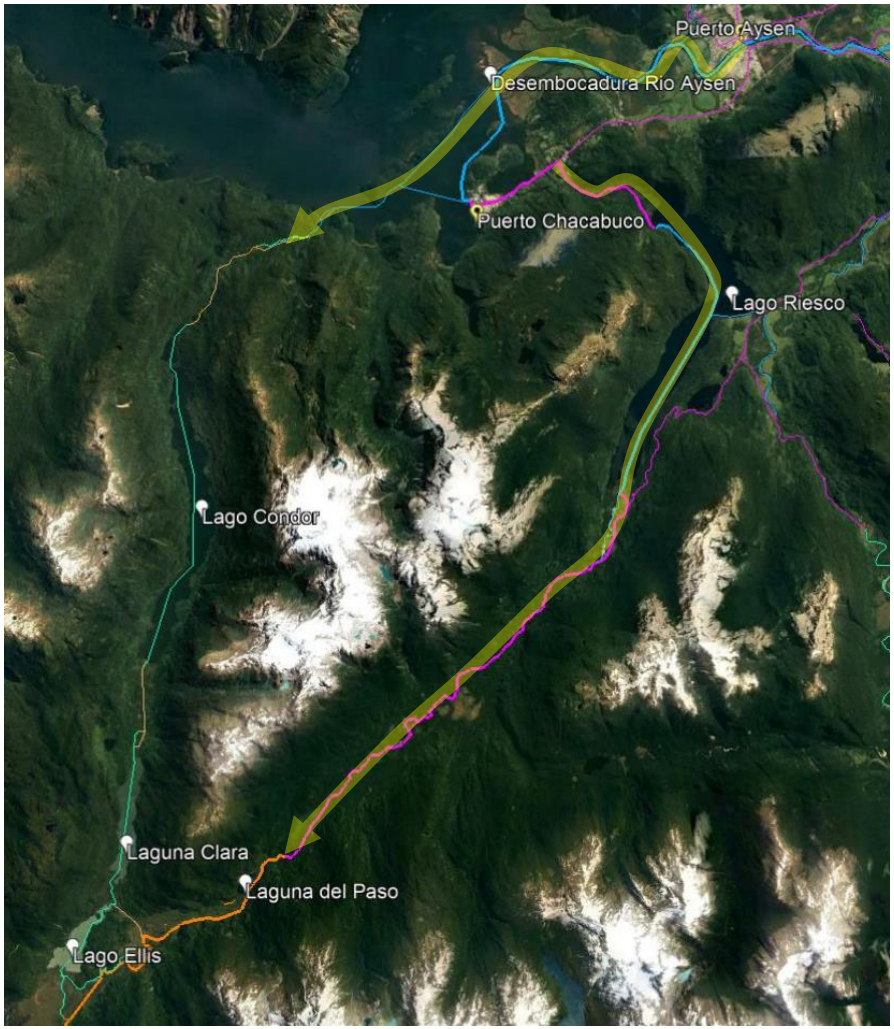


Picture 255: Northern Patagonian Ice Field Traverse (Western Option)

GPT90P Lago Condor and Lago Ellis: In December 2019 we briefly probed into both northern access routes of GPT90P to research the land route to Bahia Erasmo (see arrows on the satellite images). What we learned was this:

Until around 2010 a few settlers lived at the shore of Lago Condor and in the vicinity of Lago Ellis. Their homes are clearly visible on satellite images. These settlers have now left and sold their land to the rich, that simply want to own this land without living on it. With the departure of these settlers the trails have been reclaimed by dense vegetation. Satellite images show, that this took less than a decade. In 2019 an attempt was made to reopen the trail from Lago Riesco to Lago Ellis but this attempt stopped one kilometer short of Laguna del Paso.

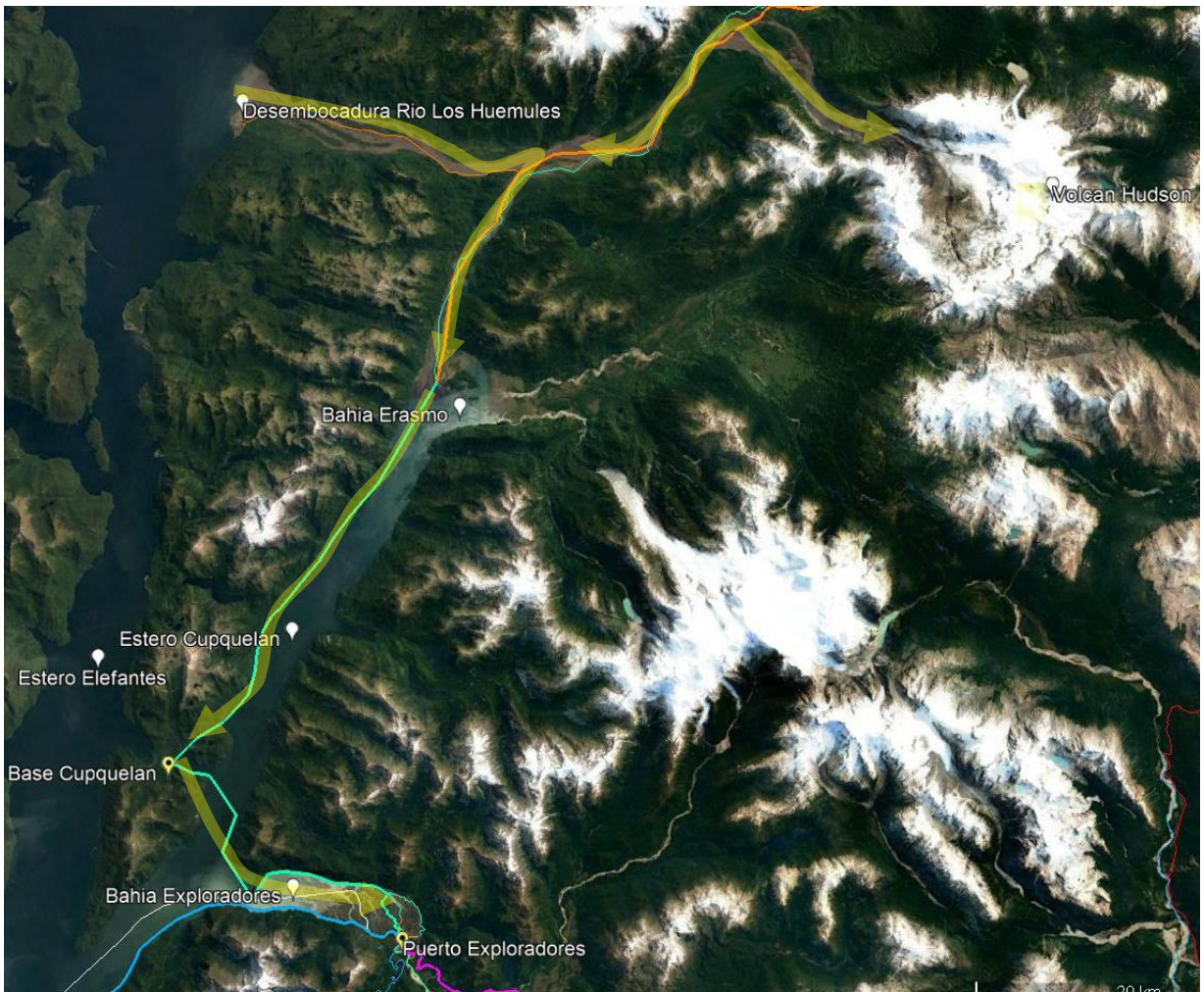
A team of ideally 4 packrafters with 4 machetes that bursts of energy may attempt to reach these hidden lakes. It might take 1 to 3 days and some serious bush-bashing to force its way into this remote valley. Once Lago Ellis is reached the dense Valdivian Rainforest is left behind and a more open valley invites to roam further south towards Bahia Erasmo from where someone may packraft to Bahia Exploradores.



Picture 256: North of GPT90P. Image: Google Earth

GPT90P Rio Los Humules to Bahia Exploradores: An alternative access to the hidden valleys west of Volcan Hudson is taking a ferry to Rio Los Huemules. As mentioned earlier, a subsidized supply boat tours to my knowledge once per month the fjords south-west of Puerto Chacabuco in support of the few settlers. With this boat, Bahia Erasmo is “just” a 35 km cross-country walk away, and satellite images show that the valleys of Rio Los Huemules and Rio Cupquelan provide a reasonable walking-friendly terrain. A mayor eruption of Volcan Hudson in 1991 filled these valleys with a thick layer of volcanic sediments. Once Bahia Erasmo is reached packrafters can wait next to a hot spring for suitable weather before paddling to Base Cupquelan and from there to Bahia Exploradores.

If this is not enough adventure, a trip to the glacier covered Volcano Hudson can be added. The volcanic sediment layer should make this additional 50 km cross-country round trip quite feasible.



Picture 257: South of GPT90P. Image: Google Earth

GPT91P Glaciar Gualas and Reichert Circuit: This is an excellent sampler that contains pretty much everything that the Packrafting Specials offer, just in smaller portions. The circuit requires 5 to 8 days and includes a long stretch of fjord packrafting, some easier cross-country walking, two lakes into which glaciers calf huge blocks of ice, some very tiresome bush-bashing, one “normal” lake and a good portion of river packrafting that makes clockwise travel clearly preferable. We travelled this route in 2019 and it was the wildest journey we did so far. From the point we entered Caleta Gualas there was no trace of humans till we returned to Puerto Exploradores.

This circuit requires decent weather, and the first two days should be calm to make it to Caleta Gualas without much waiting time in the fjord. A decked packraft is preferable but this trip has been done with classic open packrafts as well.

Consider also booking a tour with www.DestinoPatagonia.cl to Laguna San Rafael. You may leave the tour boat at Caleta Gualas to either packraft to Puerto Exploradores or visit only Glaciar Gualas and return a few days later by motorboat.

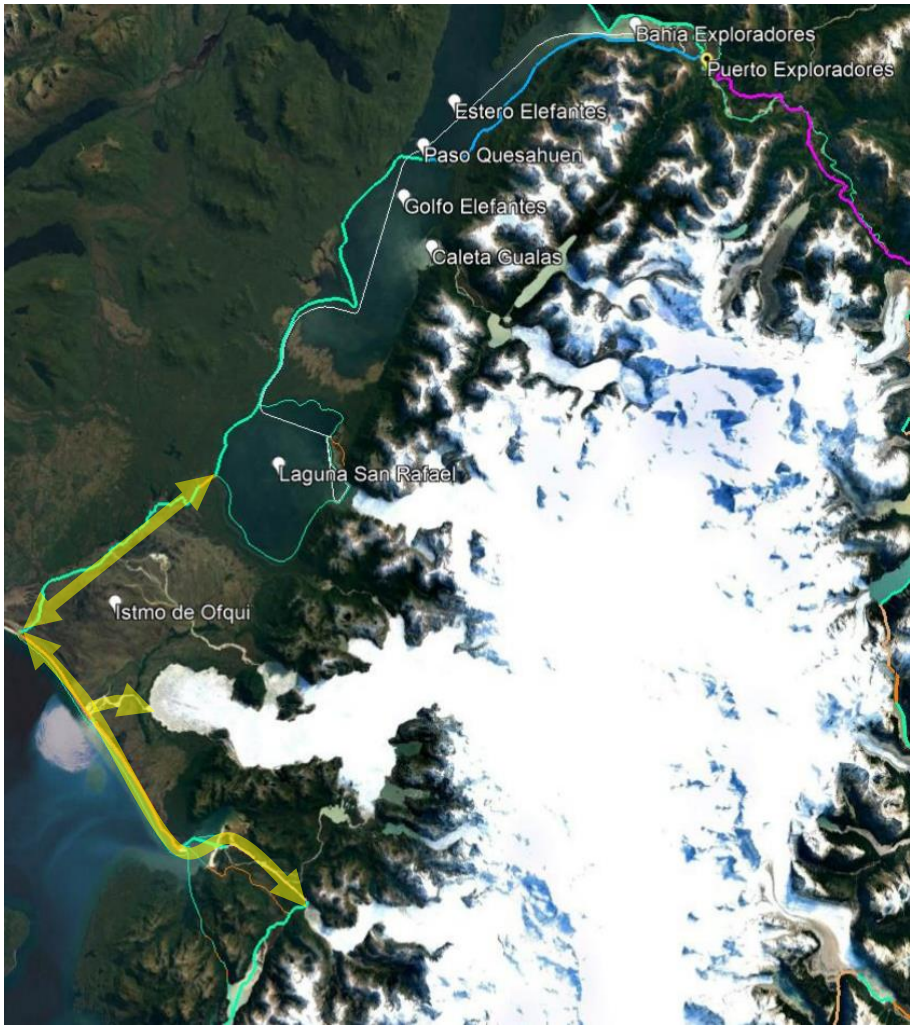


Picture 258: GPT91P Glaciar Gualas and Reichert. Image: Google Earth

GPT91P Laguna San Rafael and Istmo de Ofqui: The Istmo de Ofqui is the 20 to 25 km wide stretch of lowland that separates Laguna San Rafael from the Golfo de Penas. In 1937 the Chilean Government ordered the construction of a canal through the isthmus that was never completed. Much of the swampy isthmus is drained by the calm Rio San Tadeo that might also be packrafted upstream during rising tides. The up to 7 km wide San Quintin Glaciar is located on the east of the istmus.

This remote corner is occasionally visited by packrafters that want to test their bush-bashing capabilities, their endurance and resilience in a notorious wet landscape while visiting remote glaciers. Local authorities grant up to 20 packrafters per month a visiting permit.

Travel to Laguna San Rafael and back is best done with www.DestinoPatagonia.cl.



Picture 259: GPT91P Istmo de Ofqui. Image: Google Earth

GPT92P Glaciar Steffens: A few settlers installed themselves in the valley of Rio Huemules downstream of Glaciar Steffens to breed cattle on the riverbanks.

On an exceptionally calm day it is possible to packraft 32 km from Tortel to the northern terminus of Estero Steffen but such days are rare and packrafters must be prepared to bail out anytime if wind suddenly increases. This fjord traverse should only be attempted in a decked packraft and with sufficient supplies and equipment to install an emergency camp along the steep coast if forced by increasing wind.

Packrafters with a classic open packraft and packrafters that are unwilling to wait for the perfect day may consult the residents of Tortel for a motorboat transfer to the mouth of Rio Huemules. If doing this make agreements for the return trip to Tortel. Consider using your inReach to send text messages or emails to time the return trip correctly and test this form of communication.

From the river mouth a 10 km trail leads to the glacier. Halfway Rio Huemules must be crossed by packraft. When venturing by packraft on the glacier lake keep in mind that the floating blocks of ice my suddenly disintegrate and rotate and keep sufficient distance. Return either walking on the same route or packrafting down Rio Huemules. Note that the upper part of this river is very turbulent.



Picture 260: GPT92P. Image: Google Earth

2.2.18 Discussion of Sections Selection for Packrafting | GPT01 – GPT92P

In the following I discuss the possible water routes on lakes, rivers and fjords to facilitate an educated and thoughtful route planning. This discussion focuses on the packrafting challenges, the different packrafting options (in example multiple water routes on lakes and fjords), hiking alternatives (in example if wind impedes packrafting) and the preferable travel direction. This packrafting analysis in this chapter skips over most hiking routes to avoid repetitions. Therefore packrafters should also read chapter 2.2.12 Discussion of Sections Selection for Hiking | GPT01 - GPT78 on page 386 to fill the gaps.

GPT01 to GPT16: The northern 16 sections offer little packrafting as already pointed out in chapter Packrafting the Main Route | GPT01 - GPT40. Therefore, most packrafters have opted to either store the packrafting gear in a safe location while hiking these northern sections or to start directly on section GPT17P.

But packrafters may also consider starting with packrafting gear at section GPT13 or GPT14 in or near the village Icalma to first packraft Laguna Icalma and then traverse the scenic Araucania region with the majestic Araucaria forests. In this region the indigenous Pehuenche culture is still alive.

A good option is also starting with packrafting gear at section GPT16 in the village Currarehue to traverse the impressive volcanic area between the volcanos Villarica, Quetrupillan and Lanin.

Packrafting gear might also be beneficial when making shorter trips to the lakes on sections GPT06, GPT07, GPT08, GPT09 and GPT10 but this is probably more of interest for Chilean that live nearby and look for short trip with some packrafting.



Picture 261: GPT06 and GPT07 Laguna del Maule. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT06 and GPT07 Laguna del Maule: The Laguna del Maule is the waterfilled caldera of a supervulcano 🌎. Carrying a packraft on a long-distance traverse is not beneficial but when exploring only Laguna del Maule, in example when circuiting this lake, then carrying a packraft might be worth the burden.

This large lake is quite wind exposed. Therefore, anyone venturing on this lake must stay alert and close to the shore to quickly bail out if wind increases. Being blown of the shore is life threading if capsizing in high waves in the middle of this lake.



Picture 262: GPT07 Laguna Dial. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT07 Laguna Dial: This 9 km long lake was created by a volcanic eruption that partially filled the valley with lava and formed a natural dam. The small water proportion of this section (only 9 km on water compared to a total length of 153 km) makes carrying a packraft on this section more burden than benefit. Therefore, this beautiful mountain lake is barely ever appreciated from a boat perspective. We packrafted this lake once but we started hiking halfway into this section and got all gear carried on a mule to our mid-section starting point.

The predominant wind direction is westbound what benefits northbound travel, but mornings and evenings are often calm so packrafting in either direction is feasible. There are excellent camp sites on the western lake terminus. Hikers with a packraft that travel southbound should follow the Regular Packrafting Route as this leads to a much nicer campsite on the eastern lake terminus than the Regular Hiking Route (corresponds to Hiking Option 5). At this campsite packrafters can rest comfortably for an early start on the next morning.

Two alternative hiking route bypass the lake on either side but the southern land route is lower and mostly close to the shore. Therefore, packrafters should follow on the water the Regular Packrafting Route that is mostly along the southern shore as this facilitated exiting the lake if wind increases to an unsafe level.

GPT08 and GPT09 Laguna de Las Lajas: Similar to Laguna Díal, this lake was also formed by a series of vocanic eruptions that build a natural lava dam that plugged the valley. In the 1970's the natural dam was stabilized with a concrete structure, and a water tunnel was drilled from an adjacent valley into the lake to use this water for power generation and irrigation. Now the level of this lake fluctuates hugely between 1405 m (elevation of dam) and 1305 m (historic minimum).



Picture 263: GPT09 Laguna de Las Lajas while being mostly drained. Image: Jan Dudeck

The comparable small water proportion of section GPT08 and GPT09 makes it questionable, if carrying a packraft is worth the burden. When paddling on this wind-exposed lake packrafters inevitably miss also the scenic routes higher up on the ridges on either side of the lake.

But a packraft may become beneficial when hiking on the eastern side of this lake to not necessarily make the long circuit around the entire Laguna de Las Lajas. For such a shorter hiking expedition a packraft can be a useful tool.



Picture 265: GPT10 Laguna del Barco. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT10 and GPT12 Laguna del Barco and Laguna Marinanqui: If someone hauled a packraft all the way to these remote mountain lakes than inflating the boat and paddling on these pristine lakes will feel like an exclusive victory. But the price is carrying a considerable extra weight over demanding passes making packrafting these small mountain lakes a burdensome pleasure.

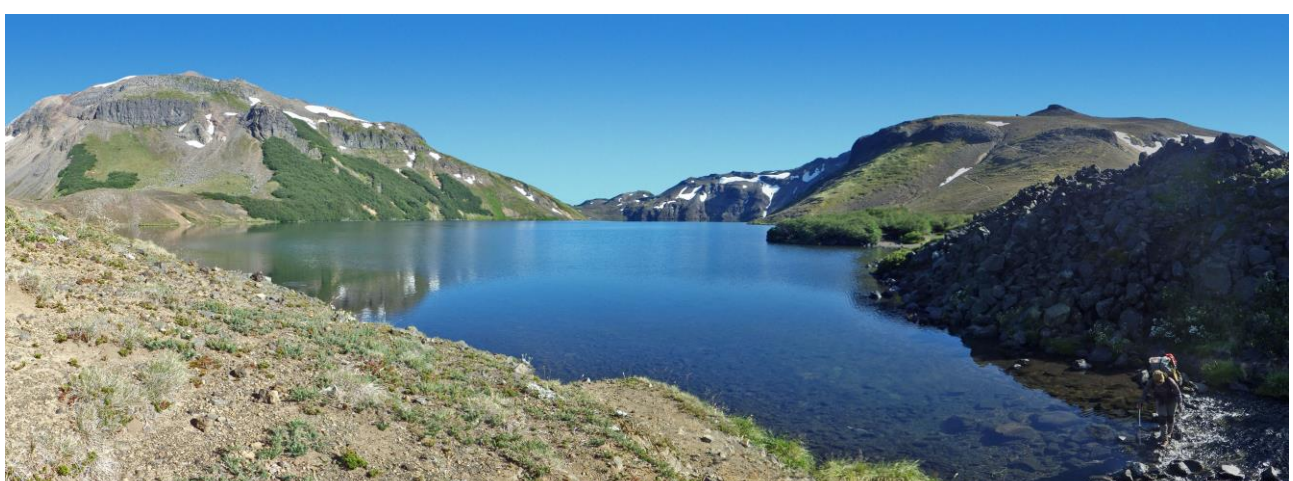


Picture 264: GPT12 Laguna Marinanqui. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 267: GPT13 Laguna Icalma. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT13 and GPT14 Laguna Icalma: Packrafters may start their packraft journey on these sections if they wish to include a chunk of the Araucania region with the unique Araucaria forest into their trip. When going southbound, then a packraft may also briefly be deployed on smaller mountain lakes on section GPT15 (Laguna Hualafquen) and GPT16 (Laguna Azul).



Picture 266: GPT16 Laguna Azul. Image: Jan Dudeck

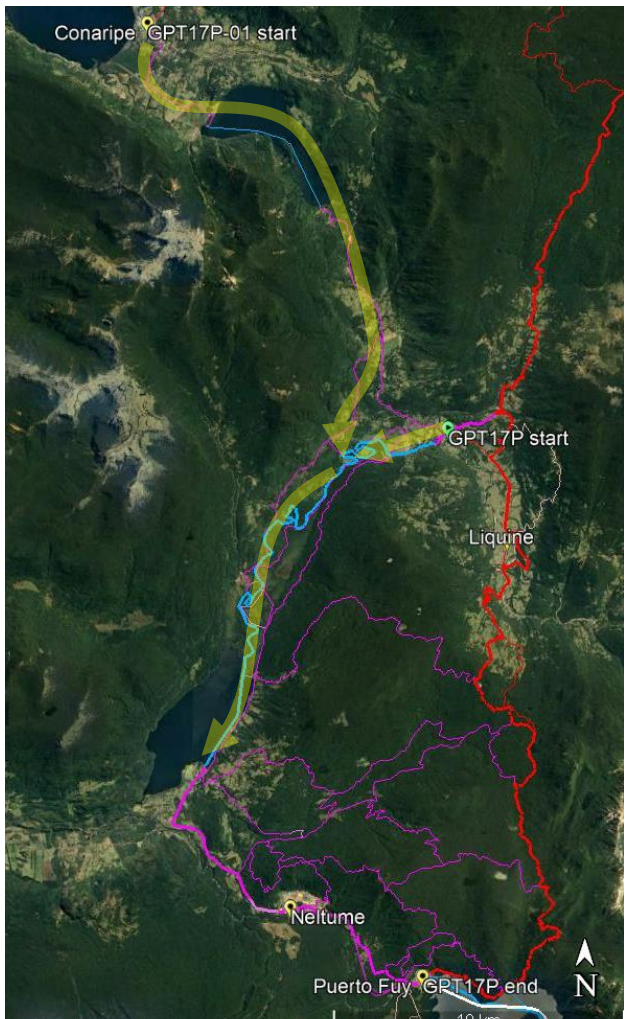


Picture 268: GPT17P Lago Pellaifa. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT17P Lago Pellaifa and Rio Cuacua: When starting a packraft journey on section GPT17P than packrafters may choose between two options:

- Option 1: Starting in Coñaripe to packraft first Lago Pellaifa followed by Rio Cuacua and Lago Neltume (GPT17P Option 1).
- Option 2: Starting in Reyehueico to start directly at Rio Cuacua followed by Lago Neltume (Regular Packrafting Route of GPT17P).

Option 1: Lago Pellaifa is a 6 km short lake with hot springs located in the vicinity of the south-western terminus. This makes starting in Coñaripe a good choice on a cold and rainy first day (as you can show your middle finger to the weather while soaking in hot water).



Picture 269: GPT17P. Image: Google E.



Picture 270: GPT17P Rio Cuacua. Image: Jan Dudeck

The rustic and affordable Termas de Pellaifa offer several hot water pools and a mud bath and may permit camping for one night if asked kindly (it's not a designated camp site and they have *cabañas* for rent but we were permitted camping in 2013).

The luxurious Termas de Coñaripe get visited by wealthy Chileans that can spend at least 100 USD per person for an exclusive spa experience while dining fine food and sleeping in a comfy bed. Choose where you will feel more comfortable and welcome.

Option 2: Starting in Reyehueico with Rio Cua Cua might be the better choice for sunny weather that makes the float on Rio Cuacua a delight. This river is quite calm, rather smaller and in late summer quite shallow. There are a number of suitable camp sites along the river except on the last 5 to 6 km before reaching Lago Neltume.

On Lago Neltume the predominant wind direction is north-bound and therefore against the natural travel direction when floating down Rio Cuacua first. Therefore, packrafters should schedule the 4 km short crossing of Lago Neltume for the morning or the evening except on unusual calm days when this lake can be crossed anytime. If wind is too strong packrafters can quickly reach the nearby road on the eastern shore and walk.



Picture 271: GPT17P Lago Neltume. Image: Jan Dudeck

After deflating the packraft at the shore of Lago Neltume packrafters have two options:

- Option 1: Walk the Regular Packrafting Route that is partly on paved roads and partly on bicycle trails via the village Neltume and village Puerto Fuy to Lago Pirihueico where the regular start of section GPT18 is located.
- Option 2: Choose from the many optional routes that are mostly minor forest roads. These options connect also to Lago Pirihueico and some options seamlessly link GPT17P with GPT18 without passing any resupply village.

Option 1: Is faster, with more resupply shops en route but the Regular Packrafting Route after Lago Neltume is less scenic.

Option 2: Is more scenic but slower. If bypassing the village Puerto Fuy than the next resupply shops can be found towards the southern terminus of section GPT18.



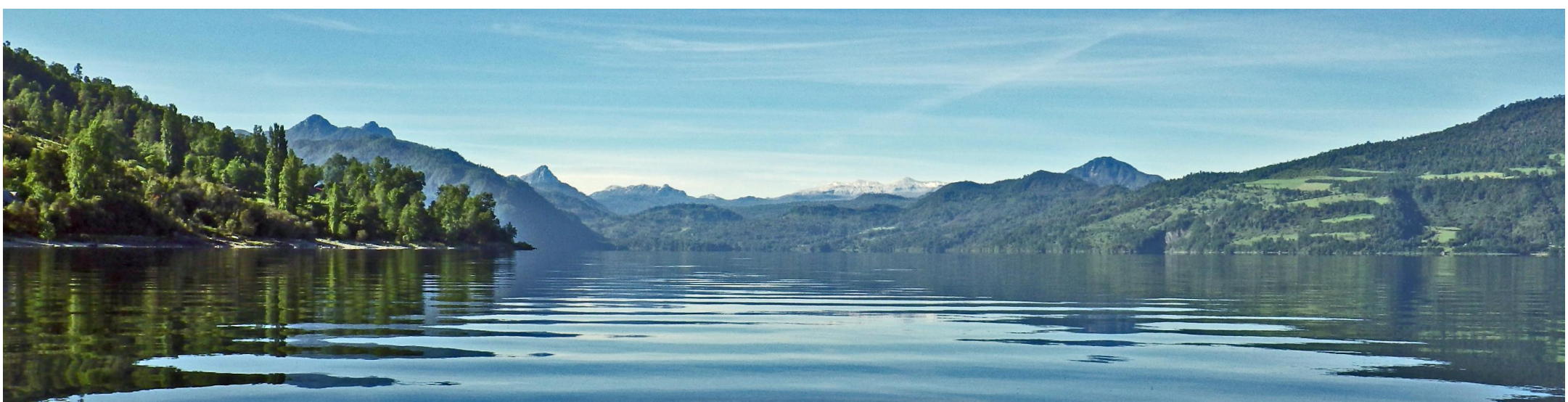
Picture 272: GPT18 Lago Pirihueico. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT18 Lago Pirihueico: This lake was created by the nearby volcano Mocho-Choshuenco that formed a lava dam that flooded the upstream narrow valley. The lake is enclosed by relatively high and steep mountains on both sides that channel the wind in lake direction. Therefore, packrafters struggle rarely with wind and waves from the side but travel either in wind direction or get stopped by head-on wind. Several sharp bends break the waves every few kilometers and provide changing scenic perspectives. The predominant wind direction is eastbound what benefits southbound travel. But occasionally *viento Puelche* blows from Argentina to Chile in westbound direction. In this case packrafters may either wait or take the ferry. There is no suitable walking route that bypasses the lake so it's either paddling or taking the ferry.

The 23 km lake traverse can be paddled in one day if wind is suitable. A promising strategy is camping at the lake put-in, get up early to start paddling with sunrise. If lucky, packrafters may reach the lake exit in one go without being stopped by head-on wind or excessive waves. If around noon wind becomes too strong to safely continue than there is still a good chance to have a few more calm hours in the evening. Therefore, someone may wait with pitching the tent and simply take a long afternoon break on

one of the many beautiful beaches. But packrafts should be prepared to camp half-way if wind and waves demand this. There are several excellent camp sites along the shore but only few are connected to a hiking route.

GPT19 Lago Maihue: Wind and waves can quickly become critical on this wide-open lake. Also, the travel direction is perpendicular to the predominant wind direction what may result in unfavorable waves coming from the side. By most of the water route is in proximity to the alternative hiking route making an unscheduled water exit uncomplicated. Only the final 2 km in southbound direction are along a steep shore without suitable exit points. If the wind prevents paddling when reaching Lago Maihue then southbound packrafters may walk to the river mouth of Rio Hueinahue, camp there and hopefully paddle in better conditions on the next morning to the lake exit near Rio Melipue.



Picture 273: GPT19 Lago Maihue. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT20 Lago Rupanco: The lack of trail maintenance in recent years (status season 2019/20) makes a traverse of section GPT20 unforgettable; unforgettable nightmarish when climbing over countless fallen trees and squeezing through dense bamboo grass and unforgettable satisfactory after having reached the other end. Packrafters that don't desire this experience may bypass the Regular Route of section GPT20 and bus from the southern terminus of GPT19 via Osorno (excellent resupply town) to the tiny hamlet El Poncho on the southern shore of Lago Rupanco. From there it is an easy 9 km paddle trip in the predominant eastbound wind direction to Las Gaviotas on the eastern terminus of this lake. Alternatively, if the weather is calm packrafters may visit the hot spring on the northern shore before continuing to El Poncho.



Picture 274: GPT20 Lago Rupanco. Image: Jan Dudeck

The 44 km long Lago Rupanco was carved out of the ground by massive glaciers that extended far to the west into the central valley. Packrafters with a more seaworthy decked packraft may consider paddling and sailing the entire length of this lake to gain more open-water experience for the fjords further south on the GPT. Most of the shores are shallow and populated and provide convenient entry and exit points. But care must be taken to not be blown into the middle of the lake in windy weather.

GPT21 Lago Todos Los Santos: This lake adds to the list of volcano-dammed lakes. The cone-shaped Osorno west of Lago Todos Los Santos filled the adjacent valley with lava what increased the elevation and the surface area of this glacier carved lake. The resulting lake size makes Lago Todos Los Santos a different calibre for packrafters. This long and partly wide-open lake has a temper control issue and gets at times quite angry with everything that floats on it. Especially the



Picture 275: GPT21 Lago Todos Los Santos. Volcan Puntiagudo. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 276: GPT21 Lago Todos Los Santos. Volcan Osorno. Image: Jan Dudeck

Regular Packrafting Route is on a 9 km long stretch fully exposed to wind and waves that mostly come from the west. Several exit points facilitate an escape but there is no exit route to walk out if unsuitable weather forces a packrafter to bail out.

Therefore, packrafters with a smaller open packraft may consider taking Option 2 that links the Regular Route with the valley of Rio Blanco. This option reduces the packrafting distance from 22 km to 16 km (more likely to be paddled in one day) and places most the lake traverse in a more wind-sheltered section of the lake. Of option 2 only the first 3 km of the lake traverse are exposed to wind from west. But this option increased the walking distance and places the following hiking route in more demanding terrain so packrafters with heavier gear might prefer the Regular Packrafting Route over Option 2 if weather is favourable.



Picture 277: GPT21 Lago Todos Los Santos. Volcan Osorno. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 279: GPT21 Rio Conchas. Image: Jan Dudeck

normally low enough that paddling 1.3 km against the flow is feasible. The lake crossing adds 1.6 km on water. There are nice camp sites on the water entry point and the water exit point. After exiting the lake it's a 13 km walk to Estuario de Reloncavi.

GPT21 Lago Cayetue: Packrafting this small lake is a scenic choice when not in a hurry. It is certainly faster to follow the Regular Hiking Route but why haul a packraft in a backpack around a lake just to "save" one hour. Note, that the southbound entry point is at the drainage river of Lago Cayetue (Rio Conchas) but the water velocity is



Picture 278: GPT21 Lago Cayetue. Image: Jan Dudeck

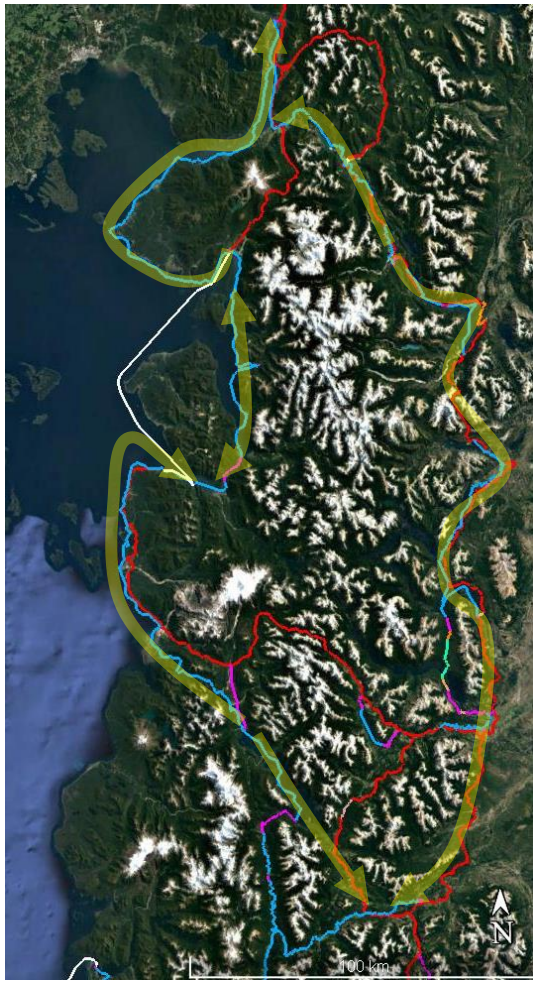
Main Route or Fjord Route: Latest when reaching the Estuario de Reloncavi packrafters should decide if either travelling the Main Route or the Fjord Route.

Main Route (GPT22 to GPT26):

- More hiking and less packrafting, preferably with a smaller “Flip-Flop” on GTP22
- Packrafting the scenic Parque Los Alerces with a “gourmet menu” of lakes and rivers
- Traversing through Argentina (renewed 90-day tourist permit on re-entry into Chile)
- More sunshine and noticeable less rain
- Partly very demanding bush-bashing
- Preferable for resilient hikers with light, open packrafts

Fjord Route (GPT70 to GPT78):

- More packrafting and less hiking with larger “Flip-Flops” strongly recommended
- Packrafting the scenic Chilean coast, Patagonian fjords and the fantastic but easy high-volume river Rio Yelcho
- More rain, more wind and less sunshine
- No bush-bashing
- Preferable for longer, decked packrafts (but also feasible with open packrafts especially tandems) and packrafters with plenty of open-water experience



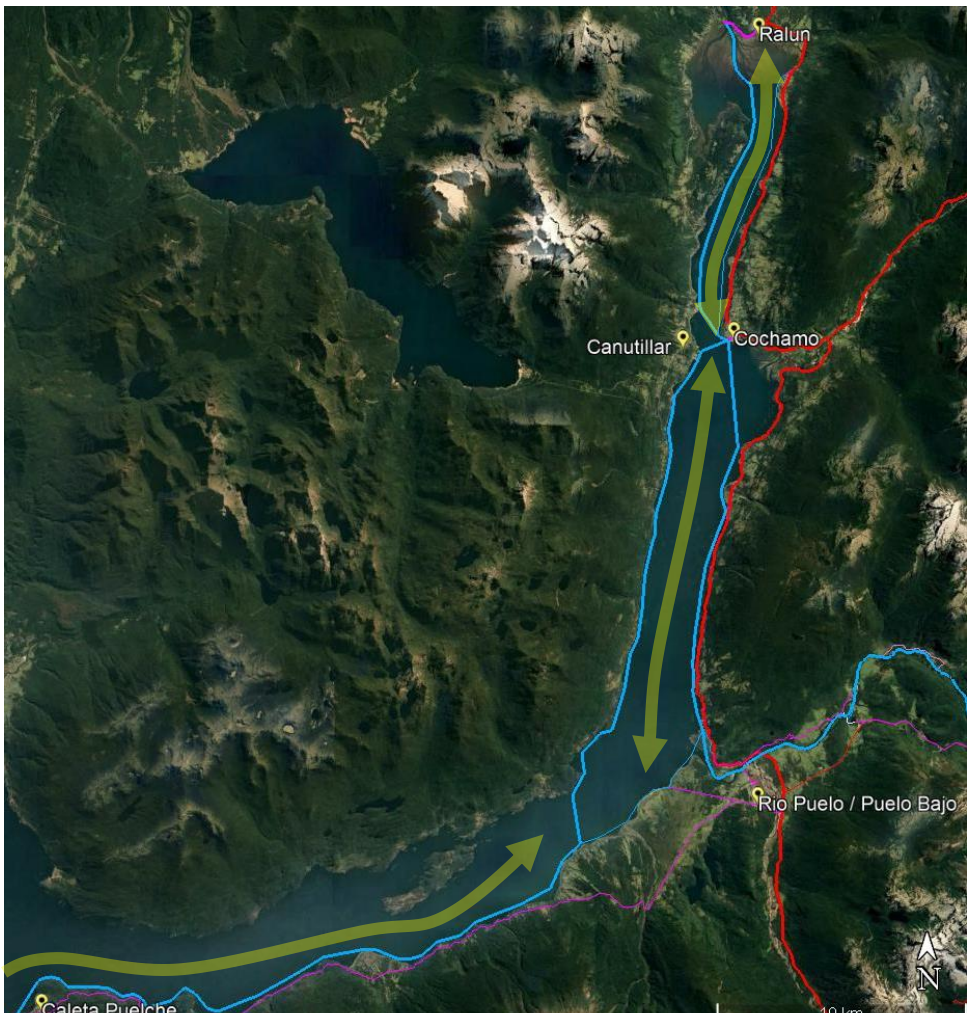
Picture 280: Main Route and Fjord Route. Image: Google Earth

GPT21, GPT22 and GPT78 Estuario de Reloncaví: The packrafting routes of the fjord Estuario de Reloncaví are split between sections GPT21, GPT22 (Main Route) and GPT78 (Fjord Route). But this does not suggest that packrafters should stick to this section sequence. Based on weather and mood three options should be evaluated:

- **Option 1**: Packraft southbound **starting in Ralun** and exiting Estuario de Reloncaví at Rio Puelo (GPT21 followed by GPT22)
- **Option 2**: Packraft northbound **starting at Rio Puelo** and exiting at Ralun (GPT22 followed by GPT21)
- **Option 3**: Packrafting the entire Estuario de Reloncaví westbound and northbound **starting at Caleta Puelche** and exiting in Ralun (GPT78 followed by GPT21 when opting for the Fjord Route)

The choice is best based on the wind and weather forecast for the next one or two days and resupply necessities.

On nice sunny days *viento sur* (wind from the south) is common what makes **eastbound and northbound travel preferable**.



Picture 281: Estuario de Reloncaví. Image: Google Earth

Overcast days with or without light rain can be reasonable calm making **both travel directions feasible**.

And on **bad-weather-days** with lots of wind **packrafting might not be possible** at all.

If the next day is expected to be sunny and *viento sur* is forecasted, then packrafters should try to catch a bus from Ralun to Rio Puelo and start early next morning at Rio Puelo packrafting northbound (ask in the shops next to the road for the bus schedule). This makes it more likely to packraft from Rio Puelo to Ralun in one long day (approx. 35 km). If attempting to packraft southbound on such a nice summer day you might get 3 to 4 reasonable calm hours if starting with sunrise what gets packrafters in best case from Ralun to Cochamo but not further.

If the weather is calm and overcast, then packrafters may start instantly in Ralun paddling southbound. There are plenty of nice camp sites especially on western shoreline on the way to Canutillar.

If the weather forecast makes it unlikely that the next day(s) are suitable for packrafting on open water, then it should be considered to either take a bus to Puerto Montt to rest and resupply or to get halfway into section GPT22 to the packrafting starting point to continue with some river packrafting (northbound segment of section GPT22).

Packrafting in Patagonia clearly favors well-informed opportunists that quickly adopt their plans to wind and weather. Packrafters that expect the weather to facilitate their travel plans are likely to get disappointed.

GPT 21 and GPT22 Estuario de Reloncaví from Ralun to Rio Puelo: The northern terminus of Estero de Reloncavi is a suitable water body to gain experiences with tides. In this part of the fjord the tidal flows are relatively weak but noticeably affect a pack-raft. During falling tide, the current is south-bound (water drains out of the fjord towards the Pacific Ocean), and during rising tide, the current is northbound (water from the Pacific Ocean is re-filling the fjord). But the high sweet water input of Rio Petrohue makes the southbound tidal current stronger than the northbound tidal current.



Picture 282: GPT22 Estuario de Reloncaví on a perfect packrafting day: no wind even in the afternoon with an overcast sky and intermittent light rain. Image: Jan Dudeck

Between Ralun and Cochamo packrafting along the eastern or the western shoreline are equally recommendable as both sides are shallow (easy entry and exit) and populated (many camp sites). There are also alternative walking routes on both sides. The gravel road on the western shore is without thru-traffic (road between Ralun and Canutillar). Along the eastern shore is a paved road with some thru-traffic between Ralun and Cochamó. There is public transportation on either side to Puerto Montt (from Canutillar on the western side and from Cochamó on the eastern side).



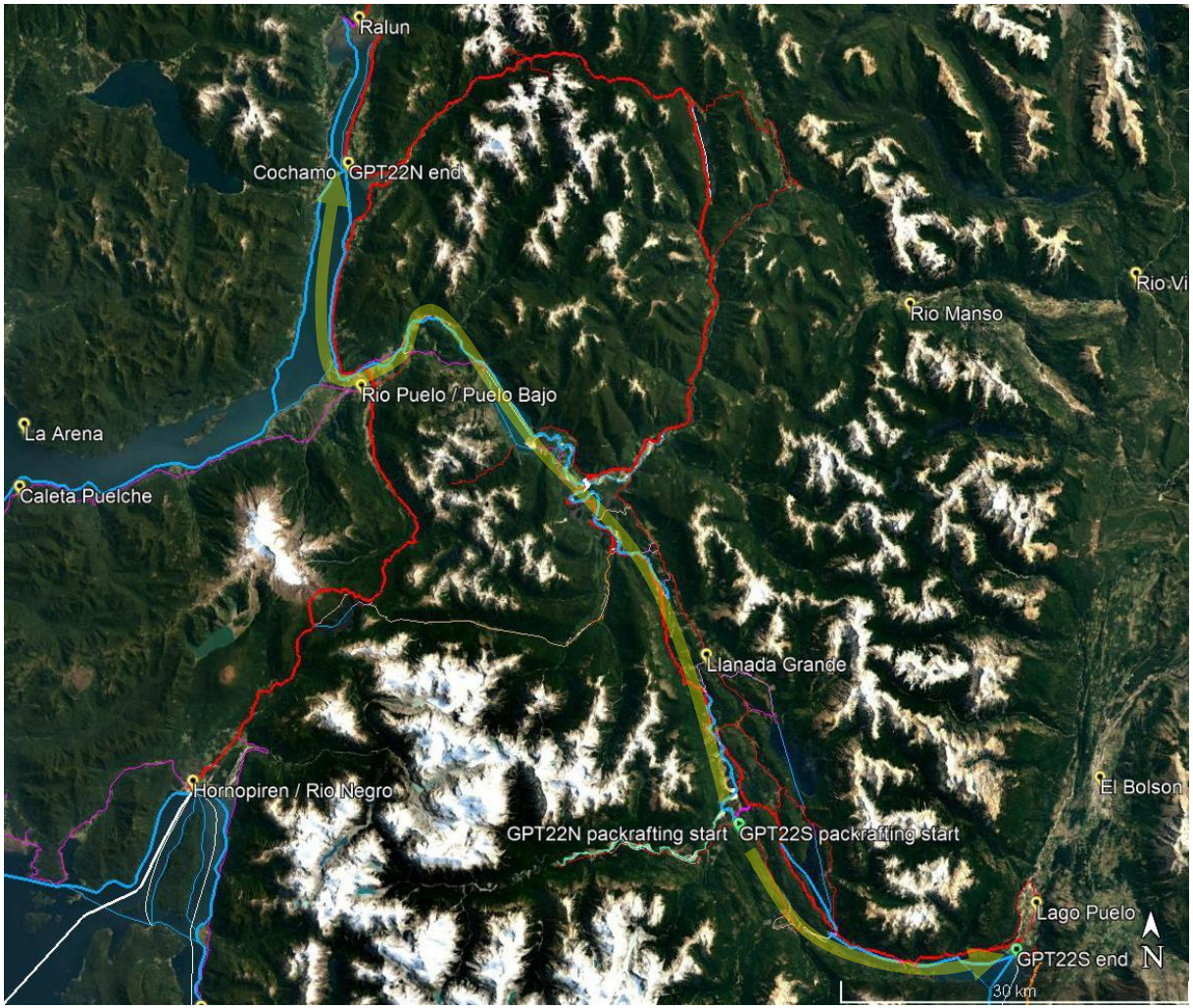
Picture 283: GPT22 Estuario de Reloncaví on a sunny day with *viento sur*. We left too late in the morning in southbound direction and had to bail out around noon when the wind became stronger and slowed us down to 1.5 – 2.0 km/h. Image: Jan Dudeck

Between Cochamo and Rio Puelo the eastern shoreline provides more exit points and an alternative walking route (paved road from Cochamo to Rio Puelo).

If packrafting southbound on a calm day or with *viento norte* than starting at the bridge over Rio Petrohue should be considered (Regular Packrafting Route). This river flushes packrafters into the Bahia Ralun on the northern terminus of Estuario de Reloncaví. Care must be taken to remain in the main water channel otherwise packrafters get stuck on the sand banks in particular during falling tide. When packrafting northbound a different exit point must be chosen.

Packrafting Section GPT22: Section GPT22 is one of the two sections[70] on which a Flip-Flop is highly recommended to maximize packrafting. If commencing at the packrafting starting point half-way into section GPT22 (near Primer Corral at the bridge over Rio Puelo) then the water proportion of section GPT22 may exceed 80%. But if going southbound without the recommended Flip-Flop then the water proportion is less than 50% because Rio Puelo cannot be packrafted upstream. But packrafters that lack packrafting experience on fast-flowing rivers may opt for travelling the entire section GPT22 southbound and only packraft the fjords and lakes of this section.

Daily buses and ferries provide public transport from Puerto Montt via Ralun, Cochamo and Rio Puelo, Lago Tagua Tagua to the mid-section starting point.



Picture 284: GPT22 Regular Packrafting Route with Flip-Flop. Image: Google Earth

[70] GPT22 and GPT29P are best packrafted with a Flip-Flip by taking twice public transportation to the Packrafting Starting Point halfway into the section and travelling both legs in opposite directions.

GPT22 Northbound Rio Puelo and Lago Tagua Tagua: Rio Puelo starts at the Argentine-Chilean border at the drain of Lago Puelo and flows into Estuario de Reloncaví near the village Rio Puelo. Along its path are two lakes; Lago Inferrior and Lago Tagua Tagua; and the total descent is 202 m on a river length of 120 km. A good part of the descent is concentrated on a couple of shorter River sections with demanding rapids that are not suitable for packrafting. In between these rapids good parts of Rio Puelo can be packrafted.



Picture 285: GPT22 Rapids on Rio Puelo that require a 13 km portage. Image: Jan Dudeck

Upper Rio Puelo: The navigable upper Rio Puelo segment starts at the bridge near Primer Corral, is swift and with several Class 2 and possibly class 3 rapids that require a foresighted reading of the water and quick reactions to stay on a safe water line. Also, trees in the water pose a hazard to packrafters. Make sure to not miss the recommended exit point after 15 km of packrafting to not get flushed into the following river segment with very demanding rapids.



Picture 286: GPT22 Mid-Section Rio Puelo at the tributary river Rio Manso. Image: Jan Dudeck

Mid-Section of Rio Puelo: After a 13 km portage around the rapids a second fast-flowing but navigable 28 km long river segment start near the homestead of Don Soilo. He and his family regularly travel with a motorboat upstream on Rio Puelo to their home. Packrafting downstream requires again a careful reading of the swift river to navigate on a safe line through the partially strong eddies and boils. Towards Lago Tagua Tagua the river gets wider and slower.



Picture 287: GPT22 Lago Tagua Tagua. Image: Jan Dudeck

Lago Tagua Tagua: The 8 km westbound crossing of Lago Tagua Tagua requires a good timing as the predominant wind direction is eastbound. A westbound lake traverse is best planned for the early morning or evening. Crossing this lake eastbound is less time critical in example when not doing a Flip-Flop and mostly hiking section GPT22 in southbound direction.

Lower Rio Puelo: Most of the lower Rio Puelo from the outlet of Lago Tagua Tagua to the sea is navigable but the rapids shorty after Lago Tagua Tagua require a shorter portage along the right river shore.



Picture 288: GPT22 Lower Rio Puelo. Image: Jan Dudeck





Picture 289 and 290: GPT22 Lower Rio Puelo. Image: Meylin Ubilla

GPT22 Southbound Lago Las Rocas, Lago Inferior and Lago Puelo: After paddling and hiking the northbound segment of GPT22 packrafters can return with public transportation to the packrafting starting point half-way into section GPT22.



Picture 291: GPT22 Lago Las Rocas. Image: Jan Dudeck

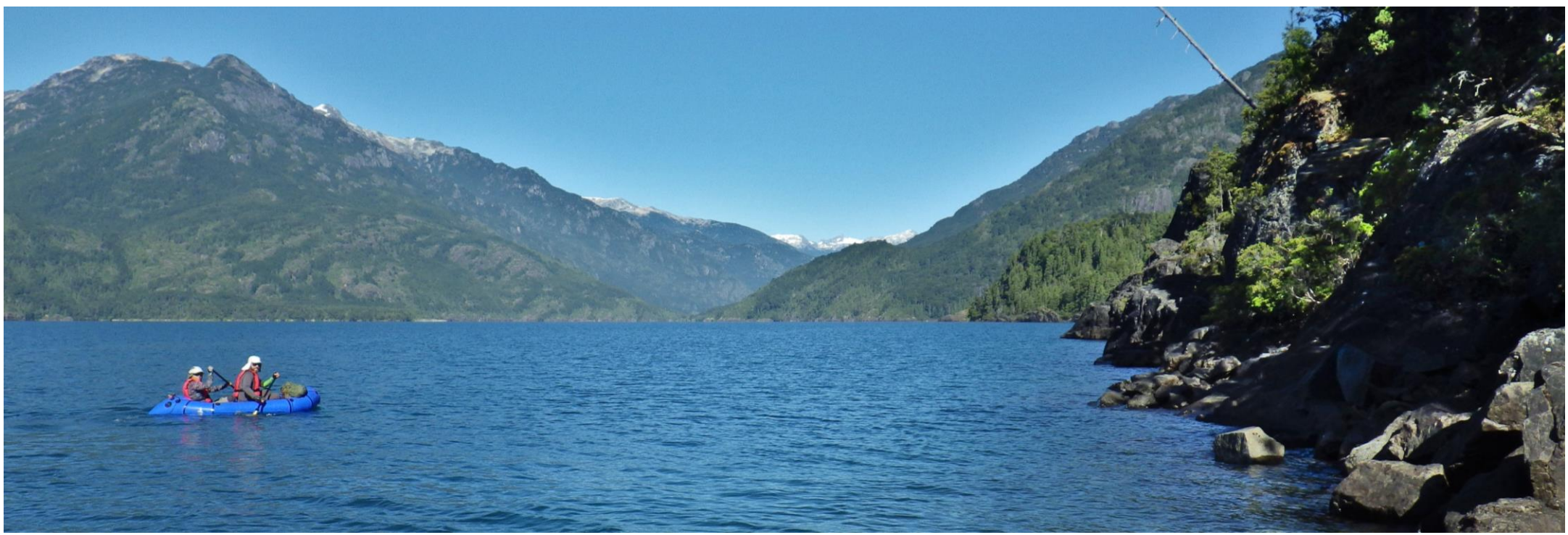
Lago Las Rocas: The predominant wind direction on this lake is southbound. This makes timing a lake crossing less complicated. We crossed this lake several times in the afternoon and always enjoyed a nice breeze to sail over this scenic lake. But bail out when the waves become uncomfortable high and threaten to fill the packraft with water. The southern terminus of this lake is a good place to camp. Also, the Chilean border control is located here. If camping here, best handover your passport in the evening as the officers must check if you are wanted in Chile what take some time. Once they get the clearance the exit stamp is printed in the passport which is essential to get the entry stamp on the other side.



Picture 292: GPT22 Lago Inferior. Image: Jan Dudeck

Lago Inferior: When getting your exit stamp at the Chilean border control avoid displaying your packrafting gear and do not discuss with the officers your plan to packraft Lago Inferior (but do not lie to them when asked!). The *Carabineros* might otherwise demand a permit from the Chilean navy office in Puerto Montt. If the officers did not explicitly prohibit a lake crossing by packraft than you may enjoy the 7 km lake traverse in eastbound direction which is in the predominant wind direction.

Lago Puelo: Right after crossing the border to Argentina on foot packrafters may inflate the packraft on the western lake terminus and paddle 4 km to the Argentine border control. If planning to resupply in El Bolson make sure to have the passport at hand in the dry suite to quickly collect the Argentine entry stamp and continue by packraft to the lake exit near the village Lago Puelo. The predominant eastbound wind often facilitates this traverse. From the lake exit buses travel several times per day to the cosy hippy town El Bolson.



Picture 293: GPT22 Lago Puelo. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT23 Lago Puelo: Packrafters that plan to continue with section GPT23 southbound best resupplied in Chile before crossing into Argentina and don't visit El Bolson at all. To get to the southern terminus of Lago Puelo packrafters best camp next to the Argentine border control and depart with sunrise on the next morning. This normally facilitates crossing the wind exposed northern arm of Lago Puelo in south-eastern direction in the normally calm morning hours. Once the southern arm of the lake is reached the mountains to the west provide some wind shelter but packrafters should hurry up and not take longer breaks until the southern lake exit is reached. Otherwise, wind may bog down packrafters on the western shore where camping in not permitted and where no land route provides an alternative southbound connection.



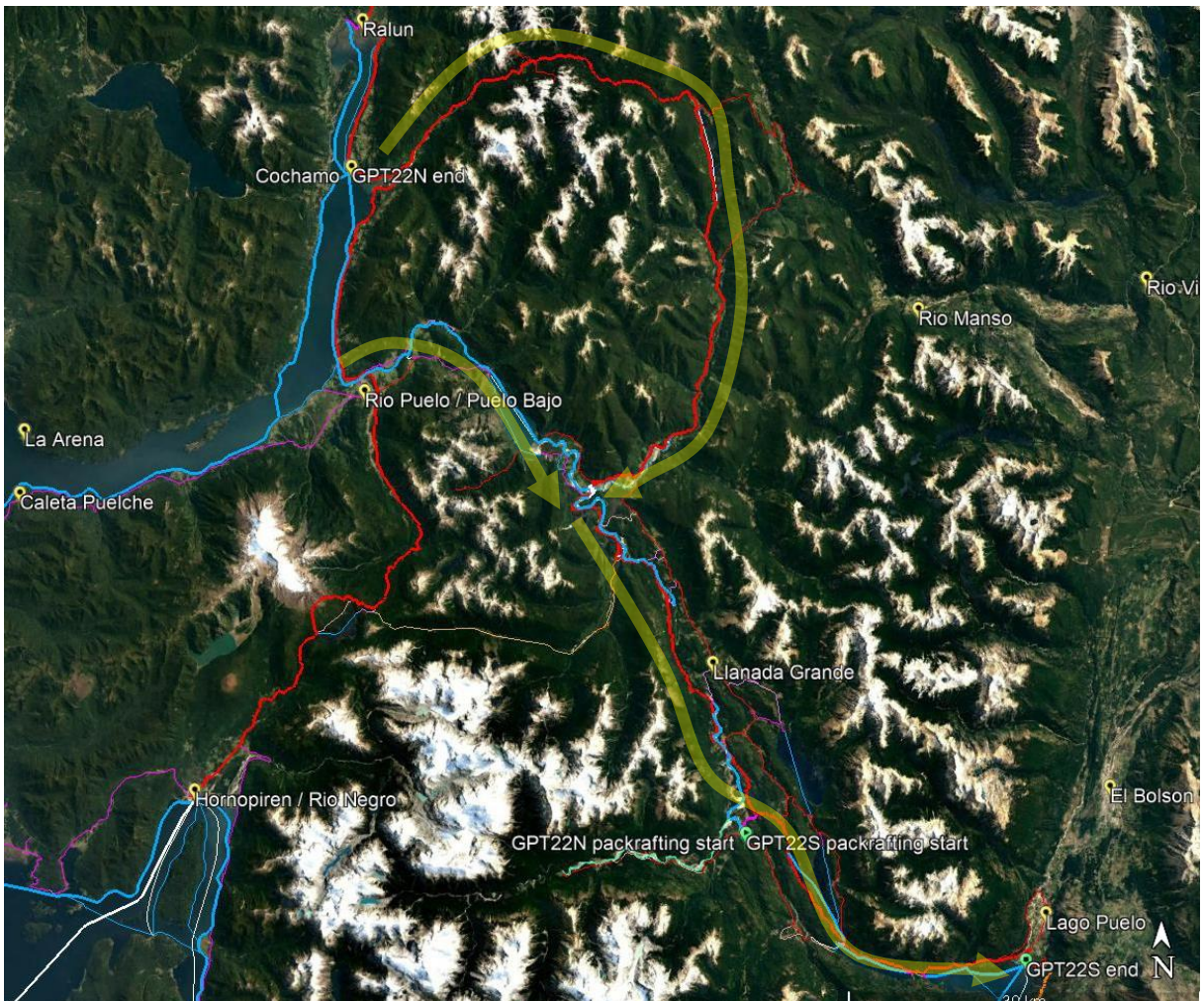
Picture 294: GPT23 Lago Puelo. Image: Jan Dudeck

This is another good reason to Flip-Flop section GPT22 because packrafters can easily walk and paddle the short southbound leg of section GPT22 (only 12 km walking distance) with all the necessary supplies for GPT23.

GPT22 without Flip-Flop and without Packrafting Rio Puelo: Packrafters that opt against a Flip-Flop on section GPT22 have two alternatives:

- **Option 1**: **Walk upstream in the valley of Rio Puelo and packraft Lago Tagua Tagua** before re-joining the Regular Packrafting Route
- **Option 2**: Walk the **Regular Hiking Route via La Junta and packraft Lago Vidal Gormaz and Rio Manso** before re-joining the Regular Packrafting Route

These two options are of interest for hikers that prefer not to packraft the fast-flowing and partially demanding upper Rio Puelo or that dislike a Flip-Flop even if this reduces the packrafting proportion substantially.



Picture 295: GPT22 Regular Packrafting Route with Flip-Flop. Image: Google Earth



Picture 296: GPT22 Homestead farm on lower Rio Puelo. Image: Jan D.

GPT22 Rio Puelo Upstream Walk via Lago Tagua Tagua: When walking from the river mouth of Rio Puelo upstream, then packrafters may take the trails north of Rio Puelo to avoid the main road (GPT22 Option 6: Packraft Sobo). The trail leads past several scenic homestead farms. To my knowledge there is no continuous path all the way to Lago Tagua Tagua so packrafters must cross Rio Puelo by packraft and walk 8 km on the main road to the western lake terminus. The eastbound crossing of Lago Tagua Tagua is in the predominant wind direction but a crossing in the morning or in the evening is recommended as high waves in strong wind can pose a threat to packrafters.

Packrafters may stop shortly before exiting Lago Tagua Tagua and walk to Refugio Alerces and Lago Quetrus (GPT22 Option 11: Sendero Tagua Tagua). This trail is only accessible by boat and to my knowledge a private protected area.

From the eastern terminus of Lago Tagua Tagua a horse trail leads on the western side of Rio Puelo to Lago Inferrior but packrafters best cross Rio Puelo at the *balseo* (location where a government sponsored motorboat cross people over Rio Puelo) to maximize packrafting. From the *balseo* roads connect to the southbound Regular Packrafting Route that crosses Lago Las Rocas. Alternatively, packrafters might walk all the way to Lago Inferior and only packraft Lago Inferior.



Picture 299: GPT22 Homesead farm on the upper Rio Puelo. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 297: GPT22 Balseo. Image: Jan Dudeck

In between Lago Tagua Tagua and the *balseo*, packrafters will briefly need the packraft to cross one river sinuosity of Rio Puelo and Rio Traidor. A packraft makes walking the Regular Hiking Route less complicated as packrafters don't rely on settlers with a motorboat to cross rivers.



Picture 298: GPT22 Homestead farm. Image: Jan D.



Picture 301: GPT22 La Junta. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT22 Regular Hiking Route via La Junta and packraft Lago Vidal Gormaz and Rio Manso: Southbound packrafters may also walk the overrun Regular Hiking Route southbound from Cochamo to La Junta after making a reservation for one of the campgrounds. From La Junta multiple trails invite to daytrips into the surrounding mountains.

After La Junta the trail becomes noticeable less travelled and to my opinion more scenic. Meeting the remotely living settlers along this route also adds a cultural dimension to the hike.



Picture 300: GPT22 Trail to La Junta. Image: Jan D.



Picture 302: GPT22 Lago Vidal Gormaz. Image: Jan Dudeck

Lago Vidal Gormaz: When reaching Lago Vidal Gormaz packrafters may opt between packrafting this scenic reasonable wind-sheltered lake or hiking the trail along the western shore. Beautiful camp sites are on either end of the lake.

Rio Manso: The final stretch of Rio Manso is reasonable calm and may be packrafted all the way into Rio Puelo to re-connect with the Regular Hiking Route west of Rio Puelo.

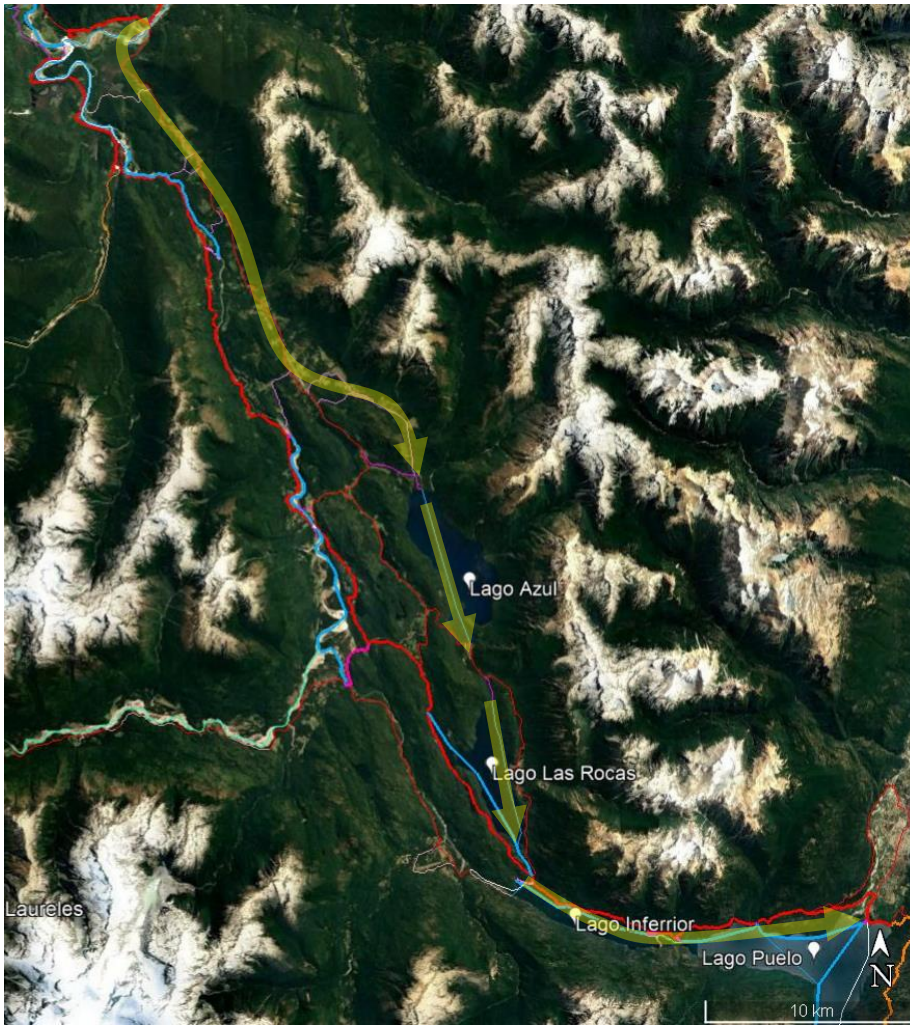


Picture 303: GPT22 Rio Manso. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 304: GPT22 Lago Azul. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT22 Llanada Grande and Packrafting Lago Azul: Packrafters that are in hurry may walk the main road east of Rio Puelo that passes through the village Llanada Grande where a couple of shops permit resupplying. From Llanada Grande packrafters may walk to Lago Azul, packraft this lake and porter to Lago Las Rocas. There might be an access fee charged to get to Lago Azul. Since the predominant wind direction on Lago Azul and Lago Las Rocas is southbound it is often feasible to traverse both lakes in one day.



Picture 305: GPT22 Optional Sobo Route. Image: Google Earth



Picture 307: GPT23 View back into the valley of Rio Turbio. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT23 Bush-bashing from Lago Puelo to Lago Cholila: The walk from the southern terminus of Lago Puelo to Lago Cholila is very demanding and requires a machete to free the partially overgrown trails from thorny vegetation. Advance is slow but rewarding for hikers that enjoy bush-bashing through wilderness and that don't want to see any other human being for a couple of days. Forest fires destroyed in 2015 large parts of the forest north of Lago Cholila and regrowing vegetation makes now also the descent towards Lago Cholila tiresome and slow.



Picture 306: GPT23 Bush-Bashing. Image: Jan D.



Picture 308: GPT23 The easy-walking cross-country part at the second pass. Image: Jan D.



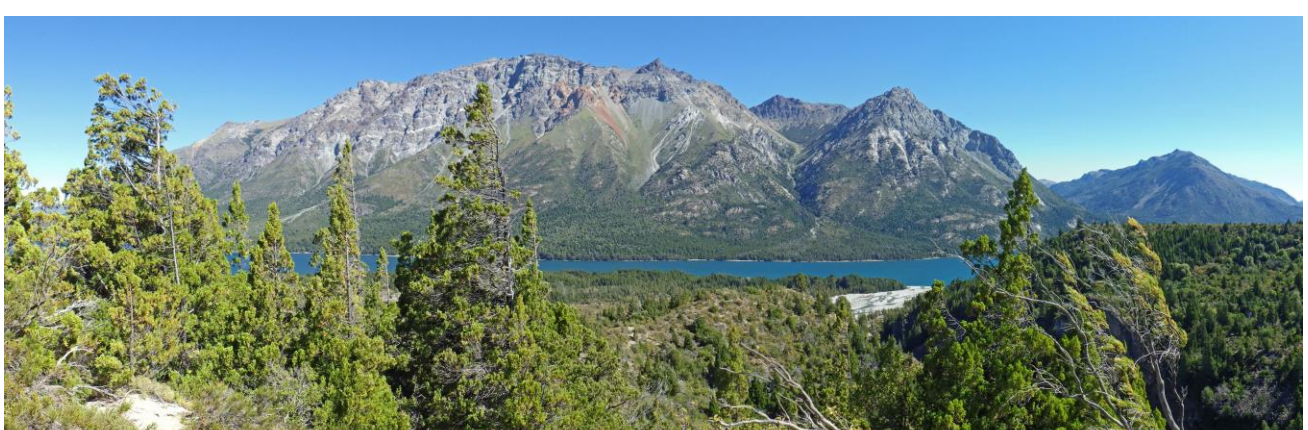
Picture 309: GPT23 Walking part of the route in Rio Del Turco. Image: Jan Dudeck



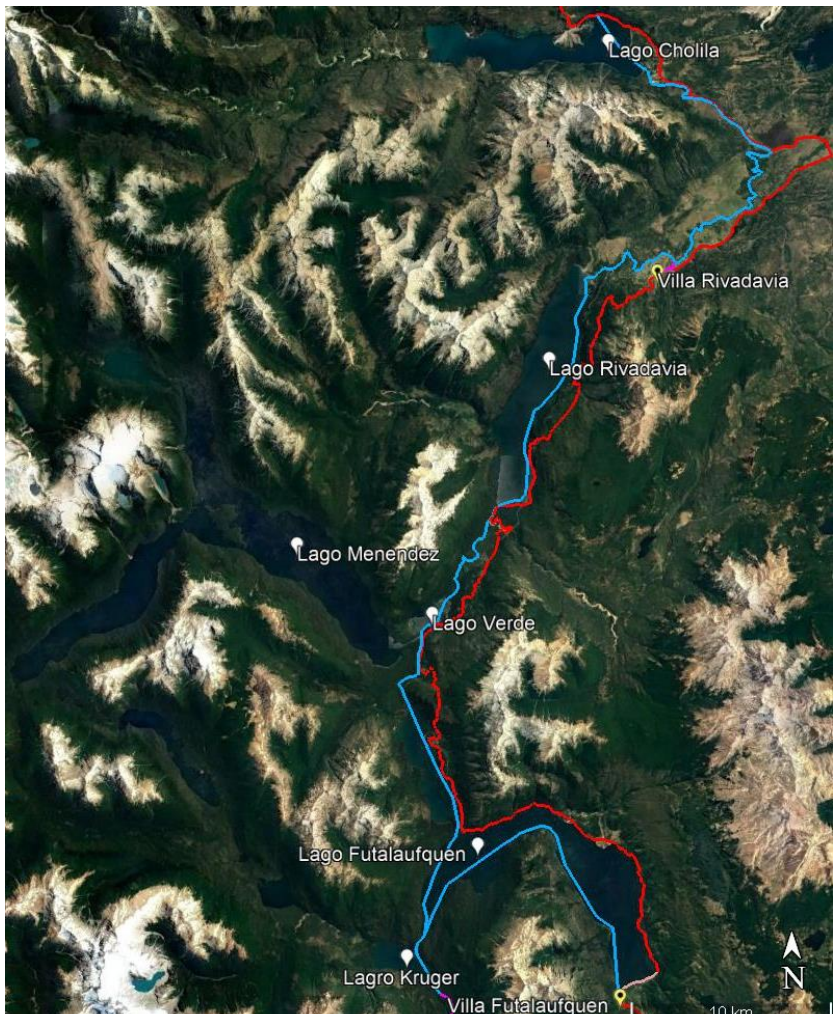
Picture 310: GPT23 After the 2015 fire. Image: Jan D.

GPT23, GPT24P and GPT25H Lago Cholila to Lago Futalaufquen:
Reaching Lago Cholila will be a great relieve and packrafting the following combination of lakes and rivers is an excellent reward for the preceding bush-bashing battle. The flow direction of 3 rivers requires southbound travel on the 75 km to 100 km long water route that is free of portages.

Lago Cholila: The normally eastbound wind facilitates packrafting towards the lake drain where Rio Carrilleufu starts. If reaching this lake in the afternoon it might be worth crossing the sediment plane of Rio Del Turco (GPT23 Variant C) to sail in line with the wind over Lago Cholila into Rio Carrileufu. On the Regular Packrafting Route a packraft might be blown of course onto a beach.



Picture 312: GPT23 Getting in sight of Lago Cholila will be a relieve. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 311: GPT23 and GPT24P. Image: Google Earth



Picture 314: GPT23 and GPT24P Rio Carrileufu. Image: Jan Dudeck

Rio Carrileufu: This crystal-clear river is a packraft delight. There are no rapids and only few trees in the water. The moderate flow carries recovering packrafters effort-less and hassle-free to Lago Rivadavia. The only disappointment is that this river ends after only 27 km.

Best stop at Villa Lago Rivadavia to generously resupply. Since the following route to the southern terminus of Lago Futalaufquen or Lago Kruger does not require any portage packrafters can resupply without worrying about weight: fresh fruits, vegetables and meet, beer and wine; everything goes. Best store perishable food items in a location of the packraft where the cold water keeps these products remain refrigerated.



Picture 313: GPT23 Rio Carrileufu. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 315: GPT24P Lago Rivadavia. Image: Jan Dudeck

Lago Rivadavia: The surrounding mountains redirect the common eastbound wind on this lake in northbound direction. Therefore, packrafters best camp as close as possible to the lake, get up in darkness and start paddling with sunrise to cross the 14 km long lake before opposing wind becomes annoying. Best stay on the eastern shore to easily bail out in case wind gets too strong.

The crossing into Parque Los Alereces may remain unnoticed when packrafting soutbound on Lago Rivadavia. This covers most of section GPT24P and parts of sections GPT25H and GPT25P. Within this popular National Park a good number of free and paid camp sites offer good choices to pitch a tent and socialize with the many Argentine visitors. During peak season in January and February the free camp sites might be cramped and the commercial camp sites get booked out. But camping outside of these approved locations is strictly banned and might get packrafters in serious trouble.

Rio Calihuel: The 7 km short river Rio Calihuel connects Lago Rivadavia with Lago Verde. A couple of minor rapids require attention and maybe some scouting as trees in the water pose hidden hazards.



Picture 316: GPT24P Rio Calihuel. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 318: GPT24P Lago Verde. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 317: GPT24P Rio Arrayanes. Image: Jan D.

Lago Verde: The just 2 km short traverse of Lago Verde might be tiresome when the predominant northbound wind slows the packraft, but the short distance makes it worthwhile to battle against head-on wind and waves.

Rio Arrayanes: When reaching the 5 km short Rio Arrayanes the wide and slow-moving river relieves your from paddling. Lean back and enjoy the scenery! Note that Lago Menendez to the west is strictly off limits for boats therefore stay on Rio Arrayanes.



Picture 319: GPT24P Lago Rivadavia. Image: Jan Dudeck

Lago Futalaufquen: This lake has three arms and the predominant wind direction on the northern and the south-eastern arm normally favour packrafters that travel southbound. The road on the eastern shore of the northern and south-eastern arm provides easy exits.

But the predominant wind opposes southbound packrafting on the south-western arm of Lago Futalaufquen that connects to Lago Kruger. Also, the fewer exit options on this lake branch make the Regular Packrafting Route to Lago Kruger unsuitable in adverse wind. Therefore, packrafters should carefully evaluate conditions when reaching Punta Matos (location where the lake splits into its three arms) and choose a route that fits to the expected weather.



Picture 321: GPT24P Lago Futalufquen from the trail to Lago Kruger. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 320: GPT24P Trail in 2016. Image: Jan D.

Lago Kruger: The gentle flow in the narrow between Lago Futalaufquen and Lago Kruger favours southbound travel but packrafters can easily paddle against the flow to return from Lago Kruger to Lago Futalaufquen. Therefore, packrafters can visit this lake even if they do not plan to packraft the demanding section GPT25P.

Trail from Lago Kruger to Villa Futalaufquen: A hiking trail connects Lago Kruger with Villa Futalaufquen but maintaining this trail is not a priority for the park administration. Therefore, trail maintenance paused when budgets were cut during the recent economic crisis. Best check the status of this trail before venturing to Lago Kruger to know your options.

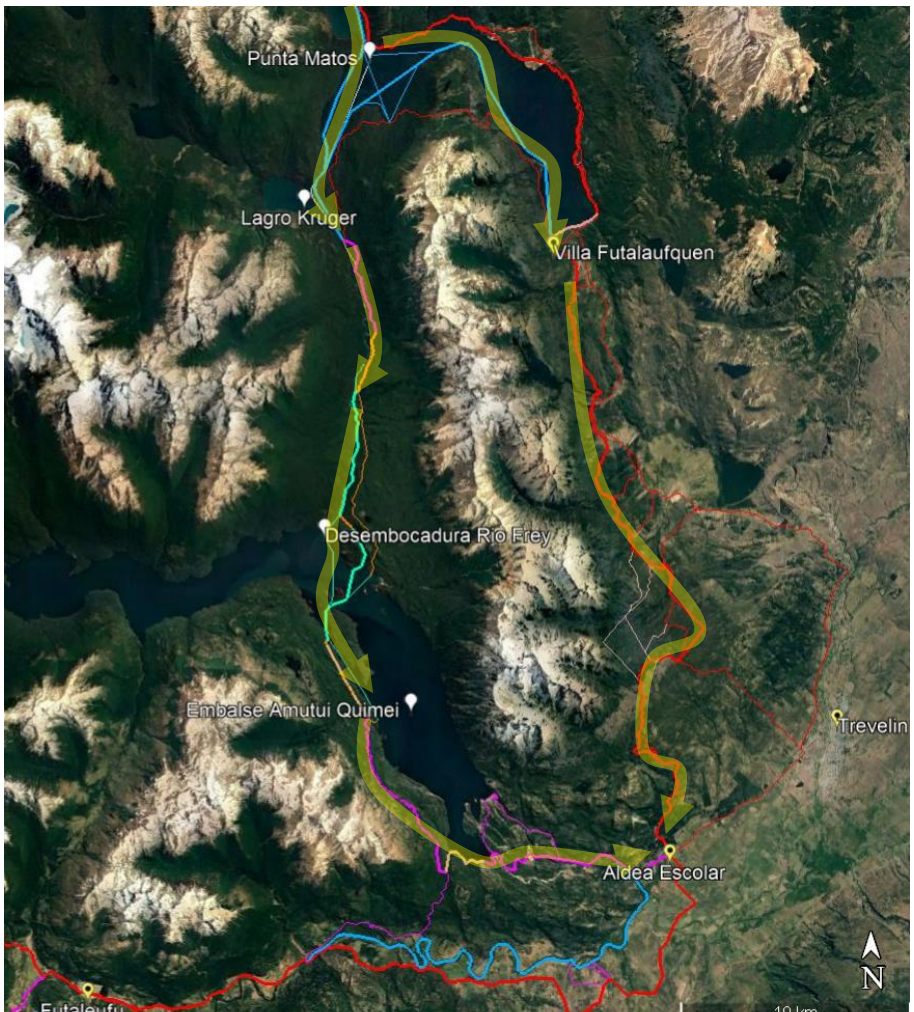
GPT25H or GPT25P: Packrafters should decide if either walking section GPT25H or packraft section GPT25P latest when reaching Punta Mattos on Lago Futalaufquen.

Option 1: GPT25H Aldea Escolar

- Shorter and less weather dependent
- Only hiking without any packrafting
- Maybe some bush-bashing on overgrown trails but if trails are too overgrown, then hikers can divert to the main road

Option 2: GPT25P Embalse Amutui Quimei:

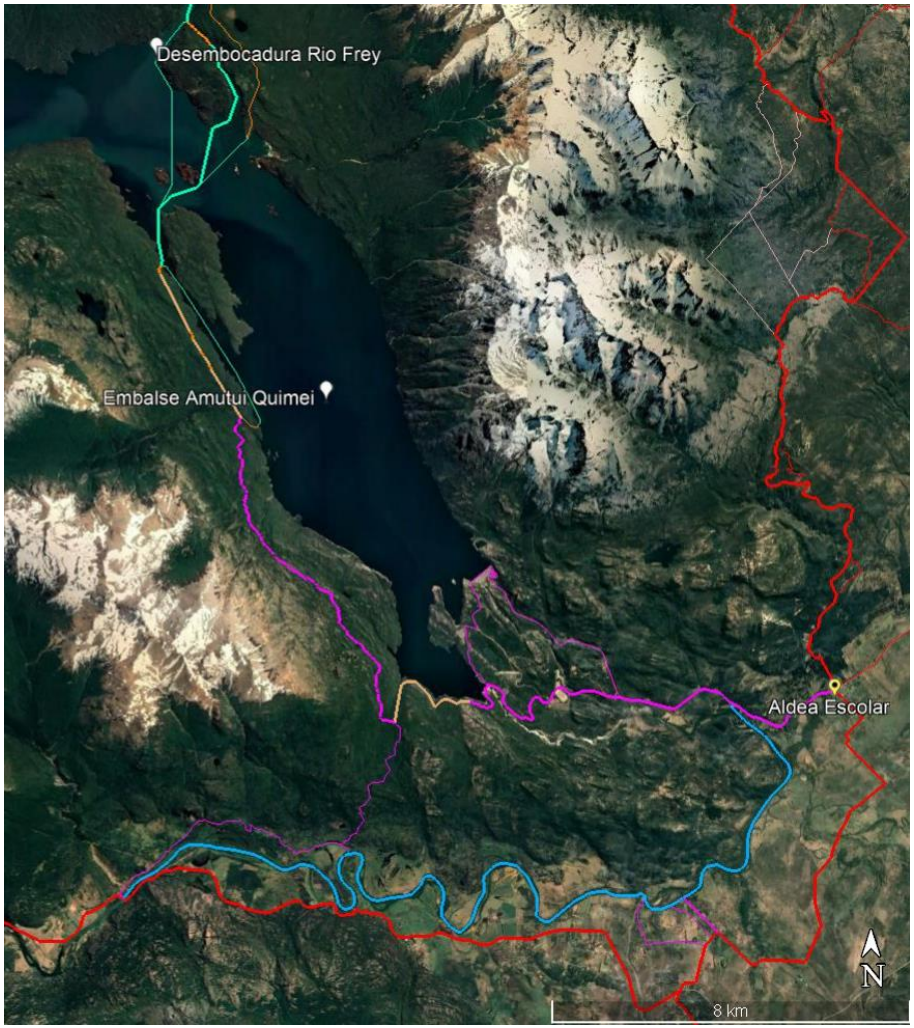
- Traversing a very remote sector of Parque Los Alerces making this section more adventurous
- Some packrafting what makes this section more scenic (4 km to 20 km depending on the lake water level and weather)
- Waiting for suitable wind conditions probably required (calm weather required to cross Embalse Amutui Quimei safely)
- Probably quite some bush-bashing on abandoned trails



Picture 322: GPT25H and GPT25P Routes. Image: Google E.

GPT25P Rio Frey and Embalse Amutui Quimei: In the 1970's a 120 m high dam was erected in the valley of Rio Futaleufu to generate electricity. The resulting 50 km long artificial lake was named in the native Mapudungun language *Amutui Quimei*. This mean "lost beauty" and refers to the drowned beauty of the valley before the river was dammed.

The long valley in east-west orientation is like a breach through the mountain chain. This topography channels and amplifies the frequent eastbound wind over the artificial lake and high waves often dominate the water. Especially the eastern terminus can be hostile to boats. Therefore, packrafters that opt for section GPT25P should schedule sufficient time to wait for a suitable weather window, quickly cross the lake when the wind calms down and resist the temptation continuing on the water all the way to the eastern terminus even if conditions appear fine. In such an attempt packrafters may get trapped on the water as the steep mountains offer only few exit points. Instead, packrafters should just cross the lake and take the trail south of the lake and walk either to the dam to exit at the hydro power station on the way to Aldea Escolar (optimal when continuing with GPT26) or descent southbound directly to Rio Futaleufu what is the more scenic option (preferable when continuing with GPT70).



Picture 323: GPT25H and GPT25P Options. Image: Google E.



Picture 324: GPT25P Low and High Water Level. Image: Google E.

The water level of this artificial lake varies substantially what greatly affects the packraft put-in. When the lake level is high then the valley of the contributary Rio Frey gets partially flooded what provides a convenient put-in closer to Lago Kruger. But when the lake water level is low then the Rio Frey forms several rapids and packrafter must hike and bush-bash further south before inflating the packraft and lowering it into the water. Therefore, packrafters should continue hiking along Rio Frey until reaching the artificial lake that starts at different points depending on the current water level of Embalse Amutui Quimei. Best check the current condition by comparing Sentinel-2 satellite images.

The former minor road along this valley was flooded by the artificial lake and with this maintenance stopped and the road became overgrown. Just a trail to some scenic rapids on Rio Frey was kept open for tourists (trail starting at the refuge on Lago Kruger).

So far only two couples with packrafts travelled this route and provided feedbacks. This makes section GPT25P less predictable but more adventurous. Carrying a machete and being prepared to backtrack is strongly recommended.



Picture 326: GPT25H that provides an alternative to GPT25P. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT25H: The less demanding and more predictable hiking alternative GPT25H connects Villa Futalaufquen with the village Aldea Escolar on rarely used trails and minor roads. Some of these trails may be overgrown but numerous exit routes provide alternative connections to the primary road that connects both villages.

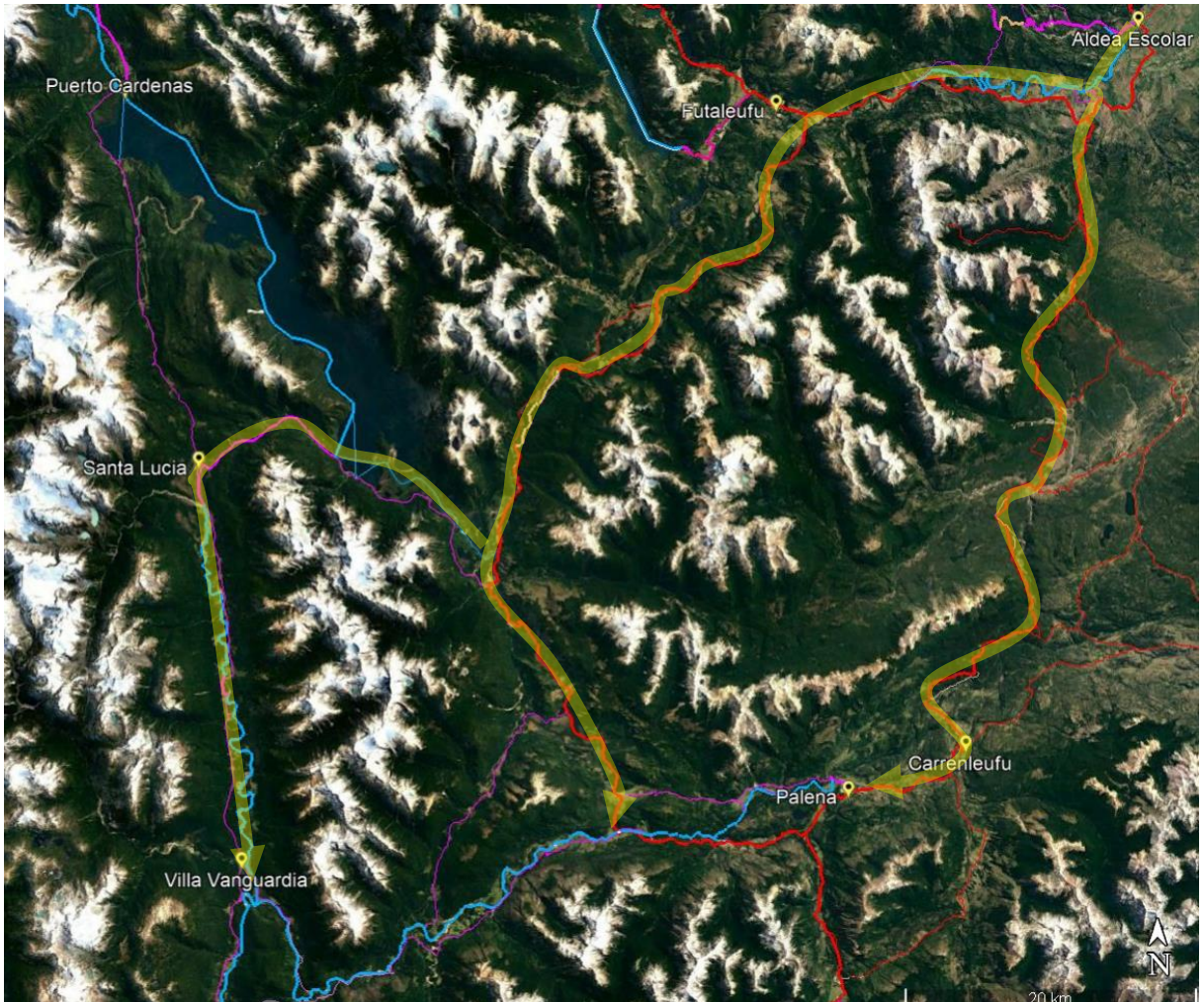


Picture 325: GPT25H Overgrown trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT26 or GPT70 and GPT72: Three routes connect Aldea Escolar with Rio Palena, where the attractive river packrafting starts:

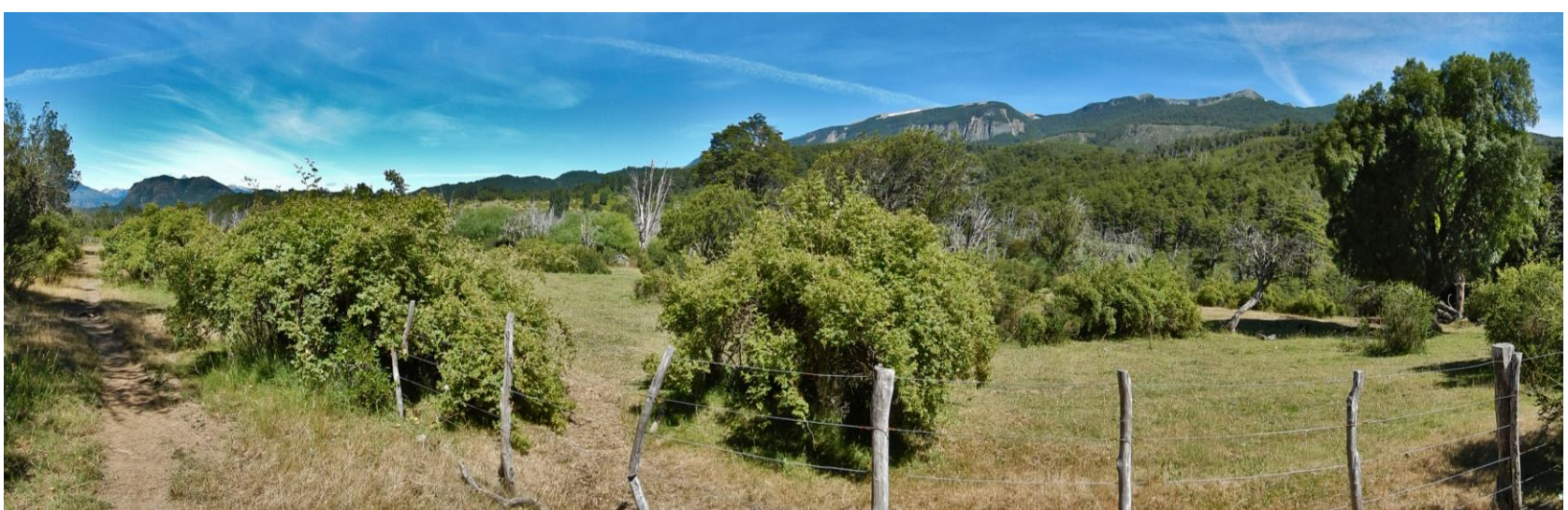
- **Option 1**: Walk the shorter and more scenic **section GPT26 via Carreneufu**
- **Option 2**: Walk the longer **sections GPT70 and GPT72 via Futaleufu to Rio Palena**
- **Option 3**: Option 2 but with **GPT75P via Rio Frio**

Option 1: Section GPT26 offers first 6 km river packrafting on Rio Futaleufu and then an easy-going combination of rarely used roads and trails on the eastern edge of the Andes where the mountains transition into the Argentine Pampa. After quite some bush-bashing on sections GPT23 and GPT25 this will come for most hikers as a relieve. This section has no spectacular sights but is generally lovely and lonely. The few river crossings are not particular challenging in regular weather but after days of heavy rain or during snow melt these rivers might get dangerous to cross.



Picture 327: GPT25H and GPT25P Options. Image: Google Earth







Picture 328, 329 and 330: GPT26 Rio Futaleufu and trails of this section. Images: Jan Dudeck

Option 2: Sections GPT70 and GPT72 starts with 26 km of river packrafting on Rio Futaleufu and continues mostly on minor and primary gravel roads with partially quite some traffic. This makes sections GPT70 and GPT72 generally less attractive. But packrafters that prefer to hitchhike or to bus to the village Palena might have better chances to find a motorized transport on GPT70 and GPT72 to fast-forward to Palena.

Also, after several days of heavy rain or during snow melt section GPT26 might become impassable. If this is suspected, then sections GPT70 and GPT72 offer a certainly traversable alternative.

This option permits starting on Rio Palena 20 km downstream of the village Palena but such a downstream start misses out on a scenic upper section of this river, where the Rio Palena snakes through a gorge. Therefore, packrafters that are not on a rush should get to the village Palena, resupply and start packrafting next to this village to enjoy the full portion of Rio Palena.

Option 3: Rio Frio is a generally shallow but fast flowing river that and frequently reroutes itself through the gravel bank. During a dry summer the river may become quite shallow causing frequent annoying ground contacts. Packrafting this river therefore requires careful scouting and some whitewater experience. Experienced packrafter might enjoy this river only if some snowmelt or several days of rain lift the water level of Rio Frio to some degree. So far, only two teams of packrafters attempted this route between season 2016/17 and 2020/21.

GPT26 and GPT70 Rio Futaleufu: This river is famous for its high-volume rapids and attracts white-water kayakers from around the world. But the wild section of Rio Futaleufu is located in Chile. In contrast, the Argentine share of this river is easy going and packraft friendly. Therefore, packrafters can inflate their boat with confidence and lower it into the calm river section near Aldea Escolar regardless of continuing with GPT26 or GPT70. The only difference is the exit point.

Packrafters that want to take the shorter southbound route to Palena need to exit after already 6 km and continue hiking on section GPT26.

But packrafters that opted for GPT70 and GPT72 or the Fjord Route can float on this river for 26 km and exit shortly before the Argentine border control. Exit latest at road bridge that is located 500 m before the Argentine-Chilean border. The Argentine and Chilean border control are 500 m apart from each other.

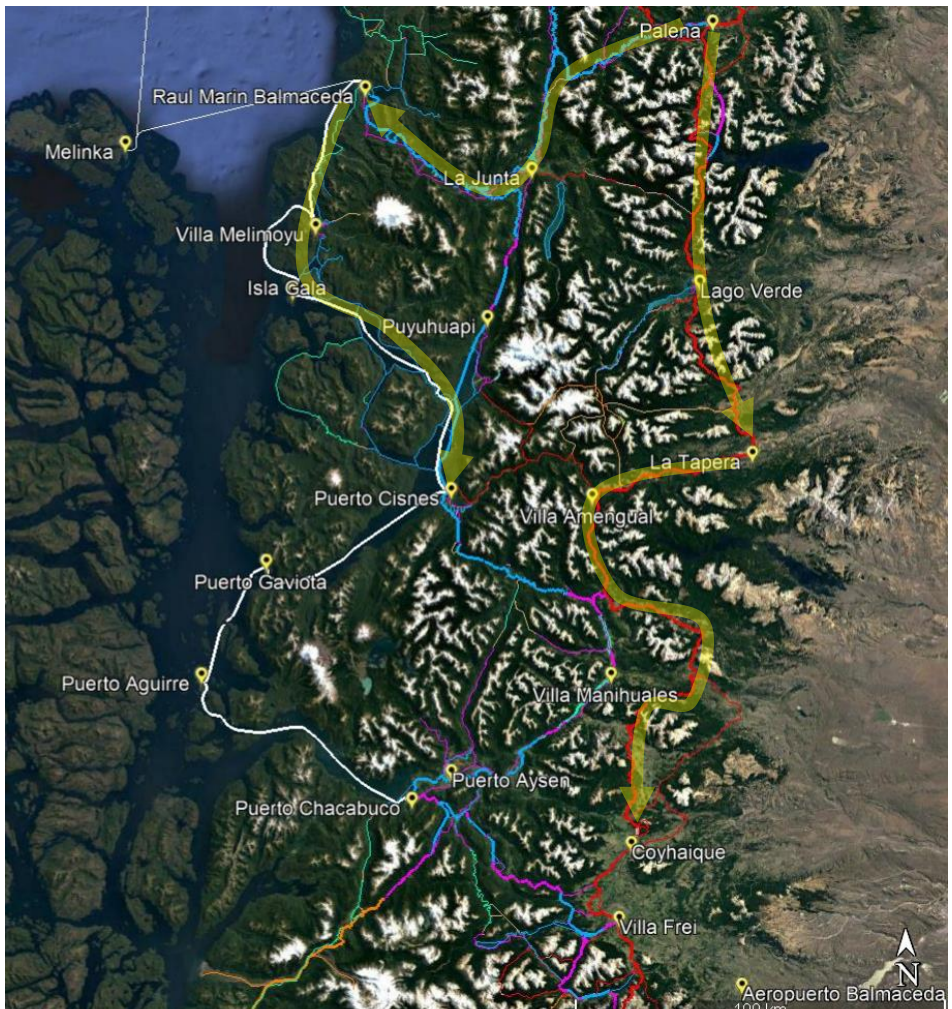
Make sure to consume all fruits and other fresh items like cheese, sausages, and eggs before crossing the border back into Chile. To avoid a strip search of our backpacks we often have the last fresh items at hand, eat them at the border in front of the SAG inspectors and handover the last garlic glove for disposal. To this subject see chapter 1.8.18 What to Bring and What to Leave on page 138.

GPT26 Hiking: See hiking route discussion to GPT26.

Palena to Coyhaique region: Regular Packrafting Route or Regular Hiking Route

In Palena the Regular Hiking Route and the Regular Packrafting Route take different headings and rejoin about 260 km further south in the Coyhaique region on GPT32 (260 km “beeline” or linear distance).

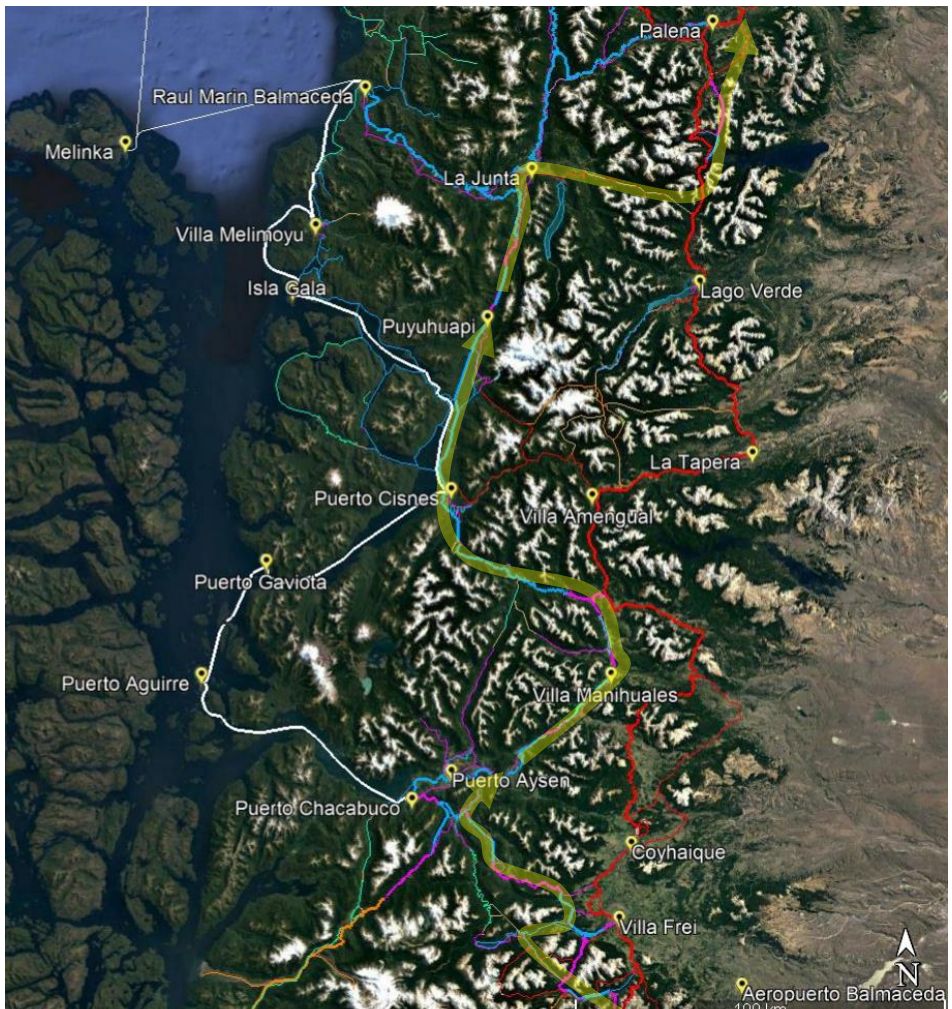
The Packrafting Routes goes first west to the Pacific coast while the Hiking Route goes south and remains in the “hinterland” on the edge between the Andes main mountain chain and the Argentine Pampa. The Regular Hiking Route consists to a good part of minor and mayor roads while the Regular Packrafting Route is mostly on water. Therefore, **packrafters that travel southbound should not need much consideration time to opt for the Regular Packrafting Route** by continuing with GPT27P and GPT28P. The 180 km long unbroken water route on **Rio Palena and Fiordo Pitipalena** is one of the **packrafting highlights of the entire GPT that should not be missed**.



Picture 331: Palena to Coyhaique region. Image: Google Earth

But stubborn packrafters that exclusively travel northbound without any Flip-Flopping best walk parts of the Regular Hiking Route as the Rio Palena cannot be packrafted upstream. Therefore, northbound packrafters best combine the following hiking and packrafting sections:

- GPT32: Villa Cerro Castillo to Lago Azul and Lago Desierto
- GPT31P: Rio Paloma, Lago Elizalde, Lago Atravesado, Lago Zenteno, Lago Portales, Rio Blanco, Rio Aysen to Puerto Aysen
- GPT29P: Approx. 100 km road walk from Puerto Aysen to Rio Picacho, then GPT29P Regular Packrafting Route Northbound segment to Puerto Cisnes
- GPT30P: Regular Packrafting Route from Puerto Cisnes to Rio Risopatron but exiting this river to La Junta
- GPT27H: From La Junta via the valley of Rio Quinto (GPT27H Option 2 Bajo Rio Quinto) to Lago Palena, then either to the village Palena or directly to the Argentine-Chilean border via Valle California to the village Carrenleufu in Argentina.
- GPT26: From Carrenleufu to Rio Futaleufu
- Followed by GPT70, GPT71, GPT74P, GPT76P, GPT77P, GPT78P



Picture 332: Northbound packrafting option. Image: Google E.

Attempting to travel northbound on the optional water routes from Puerto Cisnes to Chaiten in the fjords and along the coast is certainly less predictable and slower than the above suggested hiking and packrafting combination. The rough climate and the partially opposing wind will often pin down packrafters to wait somewhere along the coast. Especially Canal Jacaf will be a tough nut to crack when paddling westbound against the predominant eastbound wind direction. And the coast of the Golfo de Corcovado from Santo Domingo to Chaiten is even worse as the infamous strong wind, the relentless waves from the open Pacific and the high swell on the exposed beaches will hassle packrafters most of the time. Also, packrafting these fjords and the coastlines requires a heavier decked packraft to stand a change on this exposed water route. Therefore, these particular demanding exploration water routes might be of interest for regionally limited expeditions but not for a long-distance (northbound) traverse.



Picture 333: Particular demanding coastal route. Image: Google Earth

Southbound Packrafting from Palena to Coyhaique:

GPT27P and GPT28P Rio Palena: To be issued

GPT28P Pitipalena: In calm weather, an open packraft is perfectly fine to packraft this scenic fjord. But on a windy day, the predominant eastbound wind can pose an annoying obstacle for any type of packraft.





Picture 335 and 336: Suitable exit points on Rio Palena. Image: Jan Dudeck

If opposing wind is likely to pin you down, consider bailing out either at the river ferry or at the entrance to Canal Gerrao where a bridge crosses the channel. From either location packrafters can road-walk to Raul Marin Balmaceda or try to hitchhike. Especially the ferry is a good point to catch a ride to Raul Marin Balmaceda as all drivers can be asked in person while loading and unloading the ferry.



Picture 334: Exiting Canal Gerrao into Fiordo Pitipalena on an exceptionally calm and sunny day. Image: Jan D.

The “hydraulics” between Rio Palena and Fiordo Pitipalena is special. The Rio Palena flows straight into the Golfo de Corcovado, but two natural narrow channels connect Rio Palena with the adjacent Fiordo Pitipalena. The first channel; Canal Abé; is in parts obstructed by trees but the second channel; Canal Gerrao; is unobstructed and 30 m to 50 m wide. This makes this channel the standard route from Rio Palena to Raul Marin Balmaceda for most smaller and mid-size vessels.

The comparable narrow connection between the Golfo de Corcovado and the Fiordo Pitipalena means that this fjord reacts slower to tides than Rio Palena. Therefore, while the tide is falling the flow in Canal Gerrao is against the travel direction but favours packrafters during rising tide. When entering Canal Gerrao packrafters will quickly notice this effect and can choose to either packraft or walk the final kilometers.

Strong tidal currents are also present in the arm of Fiordo Pitipalena where Raul Marin Balmaceda is situated. When the tide is falling, then pack-rafters can benefit from a tidal current that carries them the final kilometers to the village but during rising tide packrafters may struggle to advance at all and may just slowly creep along the coast where tidal currents are somewhat weaker.



Picture 337: Rio Palena and Pitipalena. Image: Google E.
Flow direction during **rising tide** in Canal Gerrao & Pitipalena



Picture 338: Canal Gerrao. Image: Jan Dudeck

So, the best timing is entering Canal Gerado one to two hours before high tide to benefit from favourable tidal currents in Canal Gerado and Fiordo Pitipalena. Reaching Fiordo Pitipalena at high tide also permits a shorter route from the exit of Canal Gerrao to Raul Marin Balmaceda.

A less optimal timing does not prevent packrafting this route but slows packrafters on Canal Gerrao and Fiordo Pitipalena.

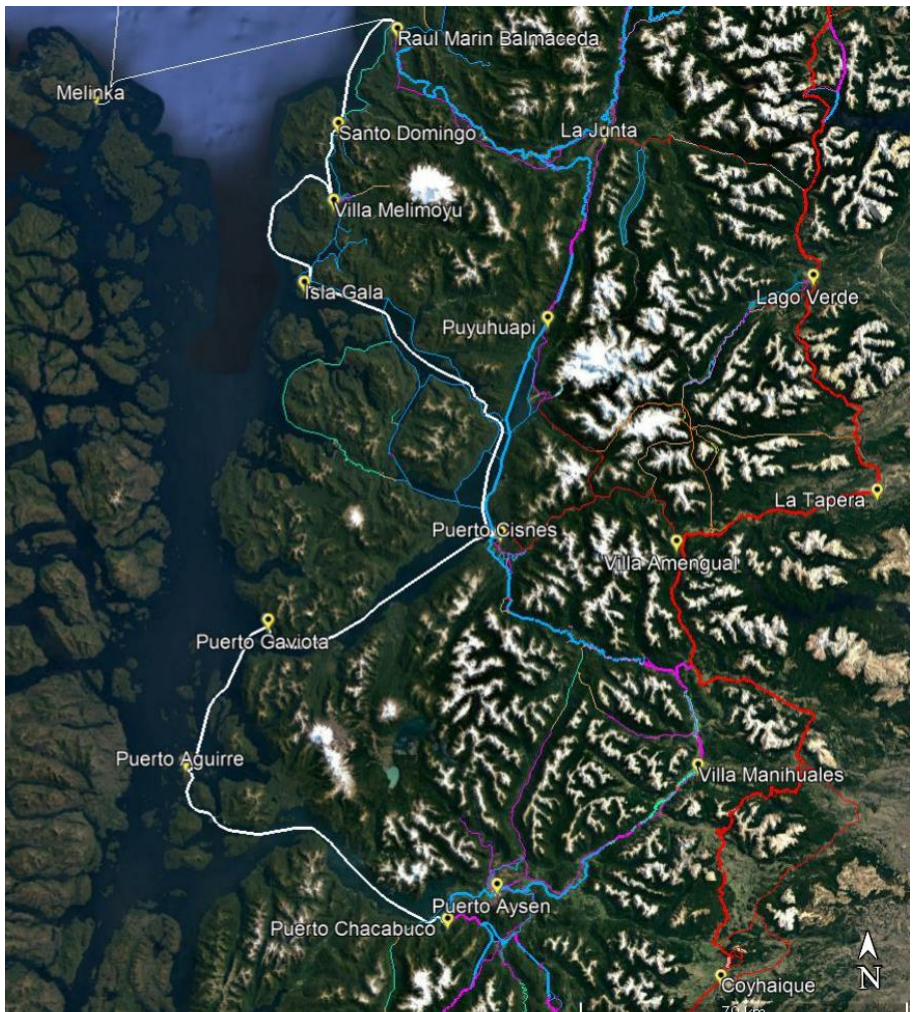


Picture 339: Canal Gerrao and Fiordo Pitipalena at high tide (left) and low tide (right) and high tide alternative route (dotted). Image: Google Earth

Raul Marin Balmaceda to Coyhaique region: After reaching Raul Marin Balmaceda packrafters can choose between 4 options.

- **Option 1**: Take the **ferry** from Raul Marin Balmaceda **to Puerto Chacabuco and skip sections GPT29P and GPT30P**
- **Option 2**: Take the **ferry** from Raul Marin Balmaceda **to Puerto Cisnes and packraft sections GPT29P and/or GPT30P**
- **Option 3**: Packraft the optional **fjord packrafting** routes of GPT28P from Raul Marin Balmaceda **to Puerto Cisnes** preferably after taking the ferry to Santo Domingo **and packraft section GPT29P**
- **Option 4:** Take the **ferry** from Raul Marin Balmaceda **to Santo Domingo or Villa Melimoyu**, **packraft in the wind protected fjords** between Santo Domingo and Isla Gala and **continue by ferry** from Villa Melimoyu or Isla Gala **to Puerto Cisnes or Puerto Chacabuco**

Option 1: Sections GPT29P and GPT30P are demanding, prone to weather related delays and require a Flip-Flop. Therefore, packrafters should consider carefully whether attempting these two sections or continuing by ferry all the way to Puerto Chacabuco and restarting packrafting on section GPT31P. Especially packrafters on a tighter schedule should consider bypassing these two sections.



Picture 340: GPT28P to GPT30P. Image: Google Earth

Option 2: Packrafters that wish to maintain connection footsteps (or paddle strokes) and that travel with a classic open packraft should consider this quite adventurous option. Sections GPT29P and GPT30P are feasible with classic open single packrafts.

Option 3: Packrafters with a more seaworthy decked packraft may consider paddling and sailing the demanding fjord packrafting routes between Raul Marin Balmaceda (or better Santo Domingo) and Puerto Cisnes. This option also maintains connection footsteps (or better connecting paddle strokes) if continuing with GPT29P.

Option 4: Packrafters with the appetite to explore some very scenic fjords may take the ferry from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Santo Domingo or Villa Melimoyu and packraft Canal Refugio, Seno Melimoyu and Seno Gala in either direction. These fjords are reasonable wind-sheltered what makes these fjords suitable for packrafters with less fjord experience. Also, the comparable short distances benefit packrafters with classic open single packrafts that are slower and less resilient to wind and waves.

Cautious packrafters may take the ferry to Villa Melimoyu and do just day-tours by packraft from Villa Melimoyu into Seno Melimoyu and Seno Gala. In this case packrafters are advised to anyway carry all their gear and extra food as weather changes may inhibit returning in the afternoon to Villa Melimoyu. After exploring the fjords in the vicinity of Villa Melimoyu, packrafters can continue with the next ferry that departs southbound every 3 to 4 days and continue with Option 1 or Option 2.

The Hosteria Melimoyu offers a comfortable accommodation and excellent food for a reasonable price. It’s the perfect location to sit out bad weather while exploring the surrounding fjords.



Picture 341: Canal Jacaf from the ferry when travelling from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Puerto Cisnes. Image: Jan Dudeck

GPT28P Ferry from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Puerto Cisnes and Puerto Chacabuco: The Chilean government subsidizes a ferry that travels twice per week from Quellon on Chileo to Puerto Chacabuco near Coyhaique and that returns on the same route. This ferry line is operated by Naviera Austral under the name *Ruta Cordillera*. This shipping route supports multiple settlements in the fjords between these two towns. This ferry is a brilliant option for packrafters to travel from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Puerto Cisnes to connect to section GPT29P or to travel to Puerto Chacabuco and bypass section GPT29P and GPT30P.

The scenic ferry ride through the fjords is certainly worth the waiting time. Therefore, I do not generally recommend a bus connection[71] even if this is possible. While waiting for the next available ferry, packrafters may paddle in the reasonable wind and wave protected fjord Pitipalena.

A ticket for the ferry may be purchased online before or while descending on Rio Palena[72] or after arrival in Raul Marin Balmaceda in the shop *Almacen Isla Del Palena* (Resupply Locations: Raul Marin Balmaceda). During peak season seats are occasionally sold out and travellers might need to wait a few days for a *cupo disponible* or may simply try to walk on the ferry without a ticket[73]. Since the ferry is government subsidized prices depend on the passenger nationality. But even foreigners pay a reasonable price for this worthwhile sightseeing trip.

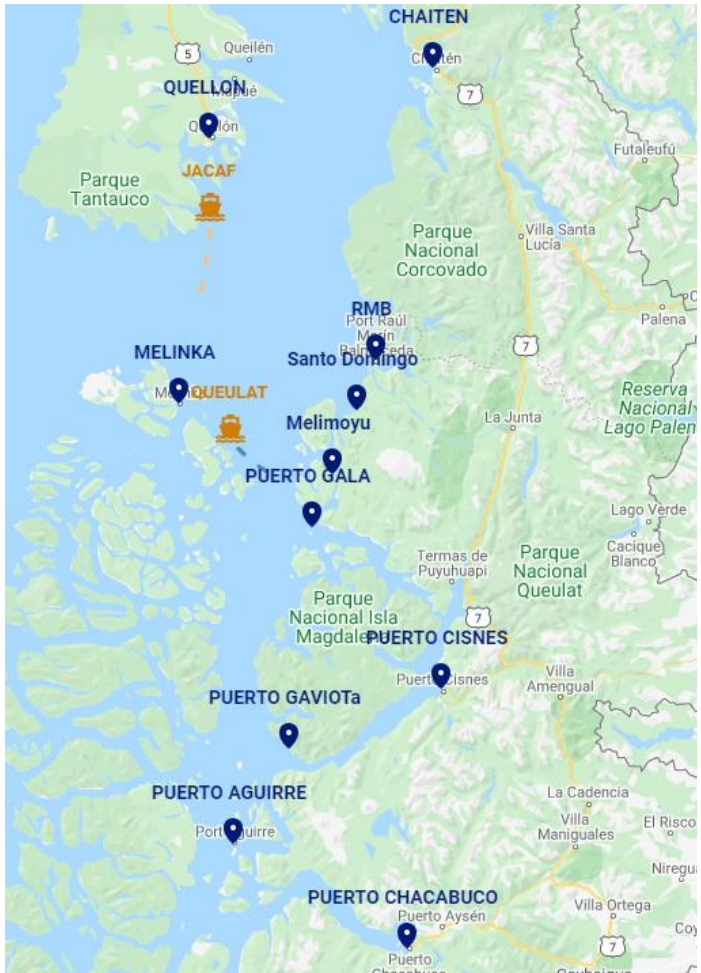
[71] In 2019 the *municipalidad* operated 3 or 4 buses per week that connect Raul Marin Balmaceda with La Junta. All buses that run along the Carretera Austral stop in La Junta. So with at least one change in La Junta packrafters may connect to other towns and village on a less scenic land route.
[72] With perfect conditions the river packrafting from Palena to Raul Marina Balmaceda takes 4 days but I suggest scheduling 5 to 6 days for the 180 river and fjord kilomters. A ticket may also be purchased online near La Junta somewhat closer to Raul Marin Balmaceda where mobile phone coverage should be decent.
[73] Getting on this ferry without reservation is no option in Quellon or Puerto Chacabuco but on the ports in between staff might not be as strict with walk on passangers without a ticket.

The whole tour from Quellon to Puerto Chacabuco takes roughly 30 hours and includes stopes in 8 remote locations in the fjords in between[74].

When attempting GPT29P or GPT30P: Book a ticket from Raul Marin Balmaceda (RMB) to Puerto Cisnes. This ferry ride takes approximately 15 hours and includes brief stops in Santo Domingo, Villa Melimoyu and Puerto Gala.

When skipping GPT29P and GPT30P and continuing with GPT31P: Book a ticket from Raul Marin Balmaceda (RMB) to Puerto Chacabuco. This boat journey takes roughly 22 hours.

Adverse weather and longer than planned loading and unloading stops often cause considerable delays. Therefore, it is advisable to check the current position of the ship online at: http://navieraustral.nnodes.com/mapa. This internet page is very practical to correctly anticipate the actual arrival time to not wait in the port for a delayed ferry but spend the inevitable waiting time in a more comfortable location.



Picture 342: Naviera Austral online ferry position map. Image: Naviera

[74] The ferry route “Cordillera” connects: Quellon, Melinka, Raul Marin Balmaceda (RMB), Santo Domingo (on request only), Villa Melimoyu, Puerto Gala, Puerto Cisnes, Puerto Gaviota, Puerto Aguirre, Puerto Chacabuco.

GPT28P Packrafting from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Puerto Cisnes

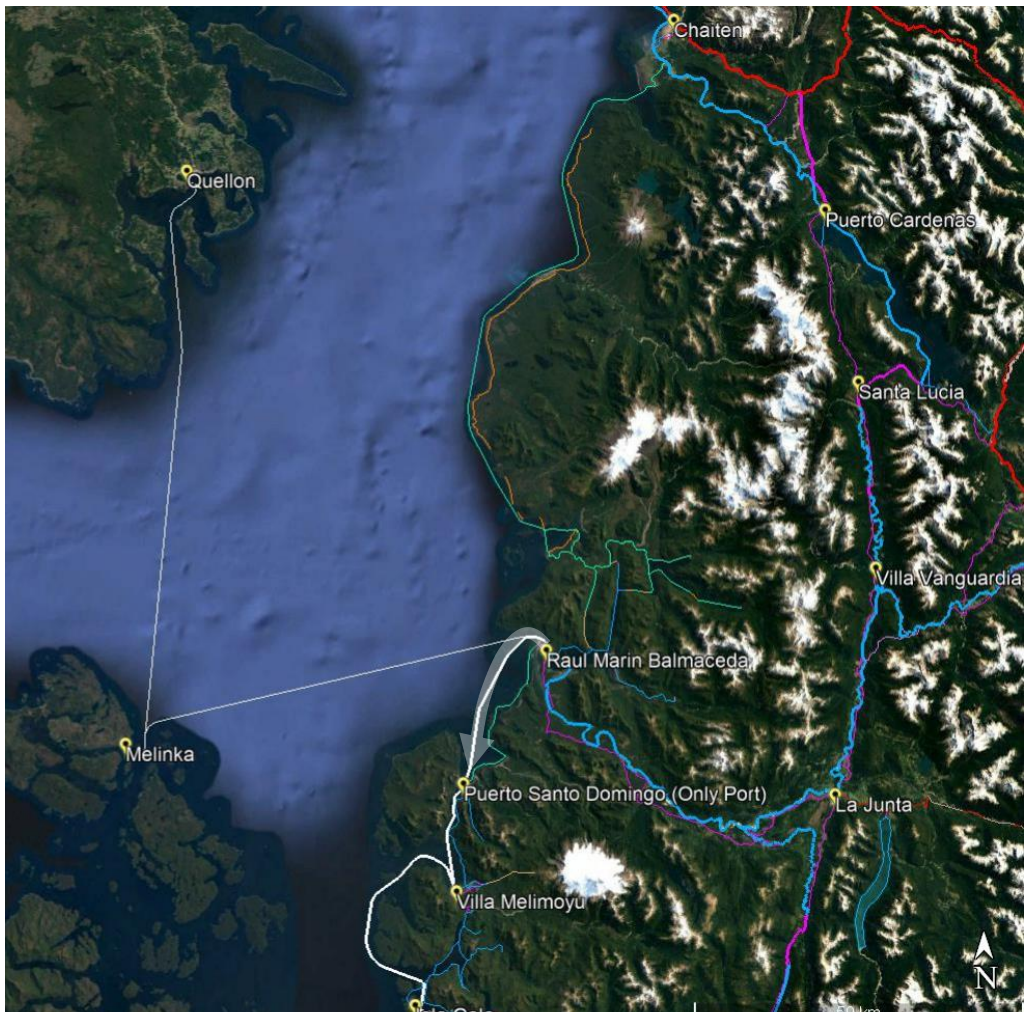
Packrafters with a more seaworthy decked packraft and sufficient time may paddle and sail most of the fjords from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Puerto Cisnes. The quite distinct segments of this fjord packrafting route are described below.

Packrafters with a classic open packraft may take the ferry from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Villa Melimoyu, spend half a week or one week in this area and explore the fjords on either side of the 3 km short land bridge while exercising the required caution. Interesting trips with an open packraft may be made to:

- Seno Melimoyu: Rio Melimoyu
- Seno Gala: Brazo Poza de Oro
- Seno Gala: Rio del Medio
- Seno Gala: Punta Swart

A classic open packraft is unsuitable for the long and exposed traverses through Golfo de Corcovado and Canal Jacaf.

Golfo de Corcovado: The Golfo de Corcovado offers no wind protection and is open towards the Pacific Ocean. Most of the time high waves roll into this golf causing a high swell on most beaches. Both, the frequent strong wind and the normally high waves make **the Golfo de Corcovado anything but suitable for packrafts**. Location names like *Bahia Mala* (Bad Bay) witness these frequently poor conditions. The first 30 km from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Santo Domingo may therefore only be packrafted in perfect weather, provided that the forecast is stable, and no high swell blocks the beaches. But packrafters that attempt this traverse of the Golfo de Corcovado in their rubber nutshell should be prepared to get pinned down along this coast and possibly wait several days before continuing by packraft. Therefore, most packrafters **better take the next available ferry from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Santo Domingo** where the surrounding islands and mountains provide a reasonably good wind and wave shelter. The Golfo de Corcovado shall be left to the daredevils or the extremely fortunate that happen to be in Raul Marin Balmaceda when the weather is just perfect for this exposed traverse from Raul Marin Balmaceda to Santo Domingo.



Picture 343: Exposed Coast of Golfo de Corcovado. Image: Google E.

Canal Refugio and Seno Melimoyu: The 20 km from Santo Domingo to Villa Melimoyu are substantially better protected from wind and waves but tides either slow or accelerate a packraft on this route. Therefore, packrafters should not rely on their luck to make it in one day from Santo Domingo to Villa Melimoyu but be prepared to bail out and camp along the coast in the Valdivian rainforest. A machete will come handy when preparing an emergency camp in example on one of the islands along the route.



Picture 344: GPT28P Canal Refugio. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 345: Exposed Coast of Golfo de Corcovado. Image: Google E.

Laguna Santo Domingo: If the weather is suboptimal for a full traverse, then packrafters may venture from the settlement Santo Domingo on the Laguna Santo Domingo and return to Santo Domingo to wait for more suitable weather.

Villa Melimoyu and land bridge to Seno Gala: In Villa Melimoyu packrafters can resupply and rest and wait for the next suitable weather window to packraft Seno Gala. Alternatively, packrafters may take the previously mentioned ferry to bail out.

We stayed two nights in the Hosteria Melimoyu that is run by Pia Jose Rojo Moreira. The warm bed and the full board were a delight on a miserable rainy day. Frequent long-stay guests are the divers that work in the nearby *salmoneras* (salmon farms). The strict ban of alcohol makes this *hosteria* a lovely place to stay[75]. Packrafters with a more generous budget can rent the gorgeous dome-shaped cabin next to Seno Gala. Sitting next to a hot oven in your private space may make you wish that wind and rain does not stop too soon.

The 4.5 km walk on the gravel road leads past the partially abandoned settlement and cuts through the Valdivian rain forest. Overloaded or lazy packrafters may ask at the Hosteria Melimoyu for motorized transport.

[75] you would not like to share a house with drunk divers.

Seno Gala: Most of this fjord provides a good shelter against wind and waves and several narrow arms invite to exploratory side trips. Entering and exiting these narrow arms is only feasible with the appropriate tidal flow[76].



Picture 346: GPT28P Seno Gala. Image: Jan Dudeck

A few settlers and salmon farms constructed houses in protected bays that provide emergency shelter if the weather suddenly changes and bogs down packrafters.

When reaching the southern end of Seno Gala and approaching Canal Jacaf, then packrafting will likely become bumpier. Canal Jacaf and the area around Isla Gala are infamous for the often strong eastbound wind, the high waves and the strong tidal currents. Therefore, packrafters that plan to bail out on Isla Gala best approach the settlement on Isla Gala from the north-west via Isla Rudy and Isla Harry to not paddle the last kilometers against the predominant wind direction.

Packrafters in a seaworthy decked packraft may connect from Seno Gala directly into Canal Jacaf without approaching Isla Gala.

[76] Best time to enter a connected sea water body through a narrow: Shortly before high tide or shortly before low tide when the tidal flow is moderate but entering.
Best time to exit a connected sea water body through a narrow: Shortly after high tide or shortly before low tide when the tidal flow is moderate but exiting.

Canal Jacaf: This several kilometer wide natural channel in east-west orientation is one of the main shipping routes in the region. Also, several salmon farms are located in this fjord. This may facilitate emergency support when packrafting this channel but such support should not be an integral part of someone's travel plan.

The predominant eastbound wind facilitates the recommended eastbound packrafting direction. But the frequent strong wind and the high waves demand a decked packraft because suitable exit locations are far apart. Also, a sail is strongly recommended to get more quickly to a suitable exit location if conditions deteriorate.

Tidal currents can be strong. During falling tide, we experienced an opposing westbound tidal current of 3 km/h even next to the shore on the eastern end of this channel. Therefore, a rising tide is expected to favour eastbound packrafters. Sea maps indicate in this area tidal currents of up to 3 kn (nearly 6 km/h). In such conditions longer tandem packrafts are of advantage as longer boats have a higher hull speed and can outpace moderate tidal currents.

Latest when approaching the mouth of Seno Soto a decision must be made if continuing via Seno Soto and Seno Magdalena or via Canal Puyuhuapi.

Seno Soto and Seno Magdalena: This combination of two fjords with a 1.5 km long bush-bashing land portage is the more scenic and more remote option. But this route is also slower and requires descent weather to make the land portage enjoyable. The 1.5 km portage can easily consume one full day and machete(s) are essential to re-open the quickly overgrown portage route. Groups of two or more will have a clear advantage over solo-travellers on this portage if every person deploys one machete.

Canal Puyuhuapi: Along the eastern shore of Canal Puyuhuapi numerous *colonos* burned down the Valdivian forest to setup their homestead farms and breed cattle. Therefore, packrafters that feel uncomfortable in Canal Jacaf and wish to get to safer ground best continue to the eastern terminus of Canal Jacaf and cross Canal Puyuhuapi during a calm weather window. There is no continuous road along the eastern shore of Canal Puyuhuapi but the beaches and the farmland permit walking good distances if the weather does not permit paddling.

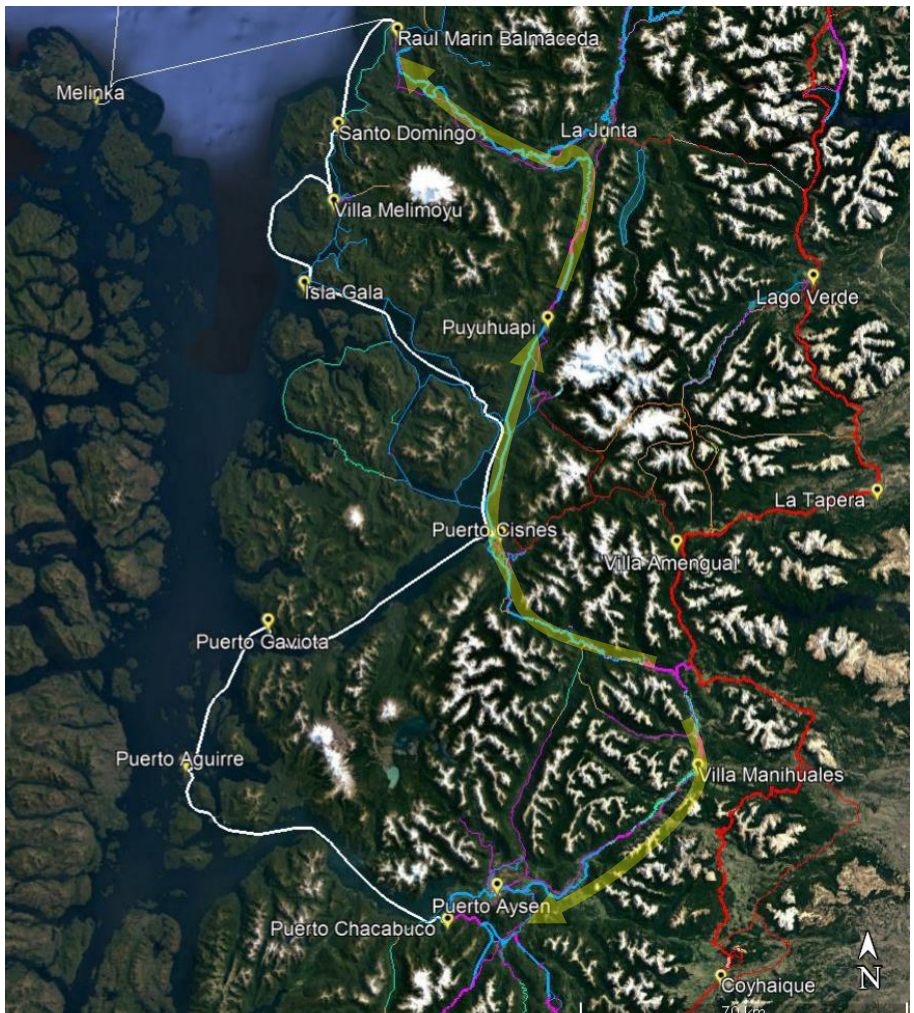
During falling tide, we experienced in Canal Puyuhuapi a northbound tidal current of 3 km/h next to the shore in the approach to Puerto Cisnes. Therefore, a rising tide is expected to favour southbound packrafters and a falling tide favours northbound packrafters (between Canal Jacaf and Puerto Cisnes).

For further consideration see GPT30P.

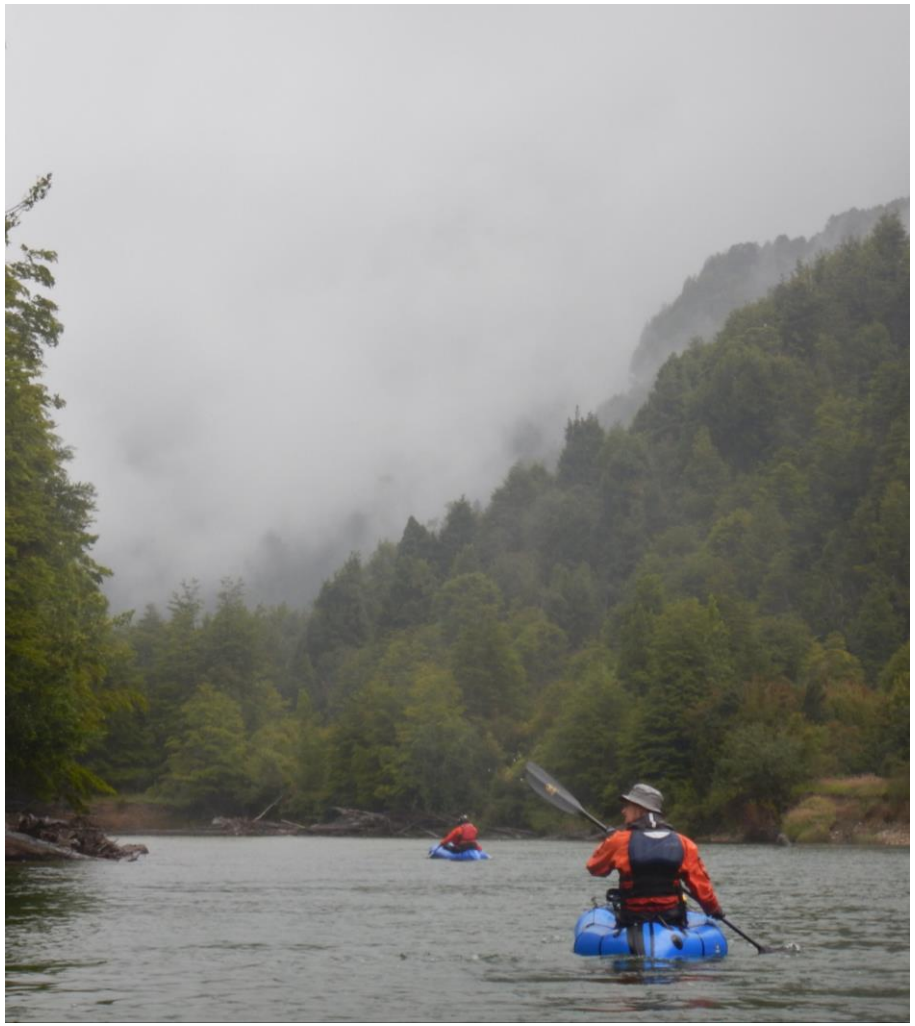
GPT29P: This section is a feast for adventure-hungry packrafters but might become a nightmarish experience for others.

Due to opposing river flow directions GPT29P consists of a southbound segment that should be attempted first (if not skipped completely) and a northbound segment that seamlessly connects to section GPT30P (that also should also be travelled in northbound direction).

The **southbound segment of GPT29P** requires some demanding river packrafting on Rio Manihuales and Rio Aysen. Multiple rapids require careful scouting and several portages. During a dry summer Rio Manihuales might become too shallow for packrafting but the nearby roads provide always a hiking alternative even if these walking options are not particular attractive. Therefore, packrafters that are not keen on maintaining connecting footsteps or some white-water packrafting might skip this southbound segment on Rio Manihuales and Rio Aysen.



Picture 347: GPT29P and GPT30P. Image: Google Earth



Picture 348: GPT29P Rio Picacho. Image: Jan Dudeck

The **northbound segment of GPT29P** traverses a particular scenic but isolated combination of rivers and lakes. Also 2 km of tough bush-bashing through dense Valdivian rainforest is required to bypass two rapids. This certainly needs machetes and groups of two or more will be substantially faster in re-opening the badly overgrown trails provided that each team member has one sharpened machete. These two bush-bashing traverses easily eat up one full day. The challenge of this route is the lack of an alternative hiking option. Also, the river flow direction makes returning on the same route impossible. So once the populated area along Rio Picacho is passed packrafters must continue through virtually untouched wilderness with impenetrable Valdivian rainforest on either side of the lakes and rivers.

GPT30P Canal Puyuhuapi: The fjord packrafting route from Puerto Cisnes to Puyuhuapi is suitable for classic open packrafts thanks to the frequent exit points on the mostly populated shoreline. This section is best travelled in northbound direction due to the flow direction of Rio Risopatron later on.

The wind direction on Canal Puyuhuapi and Lago Risopatron varies with the weather. On nice sunny days *Viento Sur* (wind coming from the south) favours northbound travel but *Viento Norte* is also common what benefits southbound travel. Therefore, a Flip-Flop on section GPT30P should not be completely discarded. But in most cases it is probably beneficial to maintain the northbound travel direction after reaching Puerto Cisnes to not spend at least two days on bus travel for this Flip-Flop.

During falling tides a northbound tidal current dominates the Canal Puyuhuapi between Puerto Cisnes and Canal Jacaf.

Depending on wind and tidal currents packrafters may either paddle or walk parts of the route along the populated beaches.



Picture 349: GPT30P Exit Points. Image: Google E.

GPT30P Lago Risopatron and Rio Risopatron: To be issued.

Lago Risopatron: To be issued.

Rio Risopatron: To be issued.

GPT31P Lago Riesco, Rio Blanco, Lago Portales and Lago Zenteno: To be issued.

Lago Riesco: To be issued.

Rio Blanco: To be issued.

Lago Portales: To be issued.

Lago Zenteno: To be issued.

GPT31P Lago Atravesado and Lago Elizalde: To be issued.

Lago Atravesado: To be issued.

Lago Elizalde: To be issued.

GPT31P Rio Paloma and Lago Caro: To be issued.

Rio Paloma: To be issued.

Lago Caro: To be issued.

GPT32 Lago Desierto, Lago Azul and Lago Paloma: To be issued.

Lago Desierto: To be issued.

Lago Azul: To be issued.

Lago Paloma: To be issued.

GPT32 Rio Ibanez: See GPT33P

Northbound from Coyhaique to Palena with packraft: To be issued.

Lago Verde and Rio Turbio: To be issued.

Lago Palena: To be issued.

Lago Rosselot: To be issued.

GPT33H Torres de Avellano or GPT33P Rio Ibanez: To be issued.

GPT32 and GPT33P Rio Ibanez: To be issued.

GPT33H and GPT34P Lago General Carrera: To be issued.

GPT33H Rio Murta: To be issued.

GPT35 Lago Jeinemeni and Lago Verde: To be issued.

GPT35 Rio Chacabuco: To be issued.

GPT35 Lago Cochrane: See GPT36H

GPT36H Ruta de los Pioneros or GPT36P Rio Baker: To be issued.

GPT36H Ruta de los Pioneros Southbound: To be issued.

Lago Cochrane: To be issued.

Lago Brown: To be issued.

Rio Tranquilo: To be issued.

Lago Alegre: To be issued.

Lago Christie: To be issued.

Upper Rio Mayer: To be issued.

Lago Claro: To be issued.

Rio Mayer Crossing: To be issued.

Lago El Salto: To be issued.

Lago Cisnes: To be issued.

Rio Cisnes: To be issued.

Lago Ciervo: To be issued.

Lower Rio Mayer: To be issued.

GPT36H Ruta de los Pioneros Northbound: To be issued.

Rio Pedregoso: To be issued.

Rio Salto: To be issued.

Laguna Esmeralda: To be issued.

GPT36P Rio Baker: To be issued.

Rio Baker: To be issued.

Caleta Tortel to Fiordo Mitchell: To be issued.

Lago Negro, Lago Quetru and Rio Pascua: To be issued.

Lago Bergues: To be issued.

Fiordo Steele: To be issued.

Rio Colorado: To be issued.

Lago Vargas: To be issued.

Lago Cisnes to Rio Mayer: See GPT36H

GPT37P Lago O'Higgins: To be issued.

Peninsula Florida: To be issued.

Lago O’Higgins Crossing: To be issued.

GPT37P Options: To be issued.

GPT38 Lago Chico: To be issued.

GPT39 Lago El Desierto: To be issued.

Lago El Desierto: To be issued.

Rio Toro: To be issued.

Laguna Condor: To be issued.

Rio de Las Vueltas: To be issued.

GPT41 Lago Viedma: To be issued.

GPT44 Lago Frias and Lago Dickson: To be issued.

GPT45 Lago Grey: To be issued.

GPT45 Rio Serrano: To be issued.

GPT45 Lago Tyndall: To be issued.

GPT46 Seno Ultima Esperanza: To be issued.

GPT47 and GPT48 Seno Obstruccion, Seno Skyring, Canal Fitzroy and Seno Otway: To be issued.

GPT49 and GPT50 Estrecho de Magellanes: To be issued.

GPT60P Estrecho de Magellanes, Canal Whiteside and Bahia Inutil: To be issued.

GPT62 Lago Lynch and Lago Blanco: To be issued.

GPT62 Seno Almirantazgo: To be issued.

GPT63 Fiordo Parry: To be issued.

GPT65P, GPT66 and GPT67 Bahia Yendegaia and Canal Beagle: To be issued.

GPT67 Lago Windhond: To be issued.

GPT68 Rio Grande: To be issued.

GPT68 Rio Claro: To be issued.

GPT68 Lago Fagnano: To be issued.

GPT69 Canal Beagle: To be issued.

To be continued.

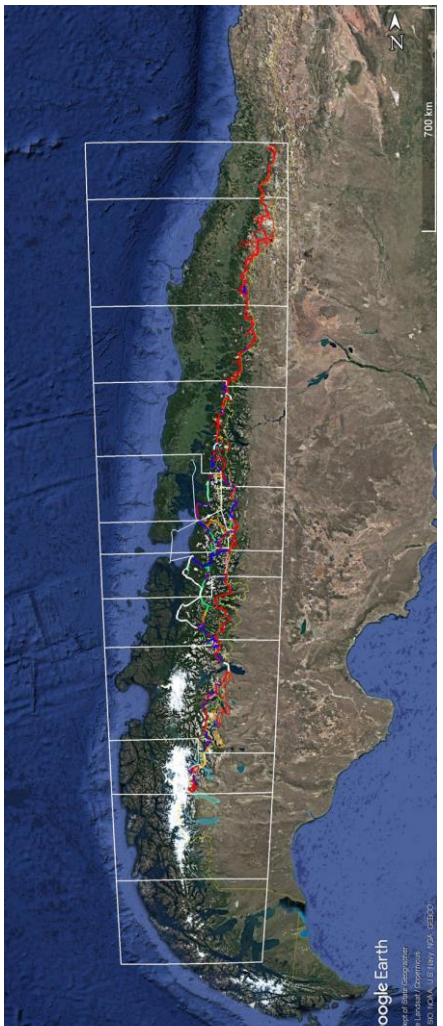
2.3 Section Groups

To better distinguish between the diverse areas along the GPT I divided Greater Patagonia into sub-regions that bundle the approximately 90 sections[77] into 17 sections groups or super-sections. Each section group combines 3 to 9 sections with a similar character for which often the same recommendations apply. This shall facilitate an educated pre-selection of areas of interest.

The currently 40 sections of the Main Route (Sections GPT01 to GPT40) are divided into 9 groups (Groups A to I). Further 8 groups cover other areas i.e. the future Southern Route (Groups J to L) that still needs to be planned in detail or the fascinating packrafting routes west to the Main Route: the Packrafting Specials and Fjord Routes (Groups M to P).

Each section group is named after the dominating culture, a geographic feature or the region name. To avoid confusion with the section numbers a letter is given to each section group and not a number.

These section groups are relevant when starting to plan an adventure on the GPT to make a wise choice of the areas that are appealing and appropriate for you. Once the pre-selection is made these section groups become less relevant because at this point you will start working with the actual sections. So, do not spend too much effort in memorize these section groups but read this chapter to narrow and verify your choice.



Picture 350: Section Groups

[77] Read the explanation to section on page 25 in chapter 1.3 The GPT Route Network.

To maintain the readability of this document only shorter one-page tables are placed into this chapter. All longer tables i.e. detailed information to all 90 sections that extend over multiple pages are in chapter 3 Appendix and Indices. Links in this chapter lead to these detailed overviews in the appendix. Follow these links to dive into specific topics when planning your hike in detail i.e. overviews with numerical information to all sections.

If the terminology in the following tables to each section group remains unclear follow the links below:

Colour Codes: Add link.

Sections: See the section definition on page 39.

Planning Status: See chapter 2.2.3 Planning Status on page 353.

Best Travel Method, **Benefit of Packraft** and Recommendation for a **Single-Season Hike**: See chapter 2.1.1 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 326.

Travel Direction: See chapter 2.2.7 Travel Direction on page 370.

2.3.1 Group A: Precordillera | GPT01 - GPT04

Section Group A consists of the first four sections (GPT01 to GPT04) which are noted for the long climbs and exposed nature. They quickly afford a vast sense of wilderness and elevation even so near to the giant metropolis of Santiago de Chile. You will also hike through the area of the El Teniente mine, the largest underground copper mine in the world. Fascinating to observe but important to keep distance to not interfere with the work. Expect to be questioned by guards, though you do have the right-of-way if you stay outside of the mining area.

Group A: Precordillera		
Sections	GPT01 to GPT04	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking	
Benefit of Packraft	Only Burden	
Adjacent Groups	Group B: Zona Arrieros	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

Table 24: Section Group A Summary

About two third of the route consists of trails, animal paths and cross-country walking where you will meet *arrieros* with cattle, goats and horses. In the lower areas closer to the towns, the trails see more frequent human use as hiking paths. Private campgrounds near towns see high use by town people that escape the cities especially on weekends and during the vacation period (January and February).

About one third of the distance need to be walked on roads. Some of the roads are non-public mine access roads that are well maintained, see daily use by workers who are generally respectful if diligent about their work.

Highlights are the sweeping views of the Andes, astounding rock colors, mineral deposits from the rivers, small lush drainages tucked into the folds of the mountains with water and beautiful flowers, and snow fields lasting late in the season. These sections

create the biggest contrast to the icefields in southern Patagonia. If starting here you will fully experience the transformation of the landscape from semi-desert mountains into a sub-polar territory.

When you start early in the hiking season you may encounter large snow fields and difficult river crossings along the route. During the summer high temperatures and a merciless sun may squeeze the sweat out of you. But due to the partially high elevation you need to be prepared to withstand strong wind, heavy rain and even hail and snow if a *temporal* (thunderstorm storm or period of bad weather) surprises you high up.

On these sections a packraft cannot be used at all therefore carrying this equipment would be foolish.

Satellite Image 1: Group A



2.3.2 Group B: Arrieros | GPT05 - GPT09

On the second section group from GPT05 to GPT09 the *campo* culture and *arriero* lifestyle is strongly felt. Generally clear trails follow up and down many passes, though the trails tend to becomes indistinct or disappear in terrain where animals can graze and roam freely. In this group you constantly move between temperate valleys and windy, exposed highs. The route is mostly in open terrain and only along the few lower valleys you can enjoy the shade of a forest.

A major challenge of this group are the river crossings which can be impassable in particular in spring during the snow melt and after a rare but heavy summer rain. Only few bridges eliminate the need to ford these rivers and improvised bridge are sometimes flushed away.

Group B: Zona Arrieros		
Sections	GPT05 to GPT09	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking	
Benefit of Packraft	Deployable	
Adjacent Groups	Group A: Precordillera Group C: Zona Pehuenche	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Recommended	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑ (1)	Both ↓↑ (1)
Comments: (1) For northbound travel on GPT06 an entry permit to the hydro-power station "Los Cypresses" is required. This permit must be requested in advance and is only given to parties of at least two hikers.		

Table 25: Section Group B Summary

Some of the highlights of this section group are:

- the terrain around the Volcano Descabezado with endless pumice and lava fields and various optional summit routes,
- the Laguna del Maule which is the giant caldera of a dormant super volcano,
- the Laguna Dial, a lake that formed when a volcanic eruption created a lava dam,

- the ridge above Laguna de Las Lajas, also a lake that formed when a volcano blocked a river valley,
- the Volcan Antuco,
- and several hot springs that are both, left natural and cultivated.

You will see many *arrieros* living outdoors with their animals at the high summer grazing grounds during the *veranero* season. Another highlight are the swimming holes which exist alongside the trail in the crystal clear refreshing rivers. You will love them during the sometimes unbearable afternoon heat.

In this section group you find the most hiking options that can literally get you into the last valley and over the last mountain ridge next to the border to Argentina. If you love to explore than this is your sub-region to go.

Here you also have the first opportunities to inflate a packraft and paddle over impressive mountains lakes. For a full traverse the extra weight of the packraft gear will probably not pay off but if you come to explore a specific area i.e. the Laguna de Las Lajas and its surroundings than this is an option to consider.

You are suggested to obtain permission to pass through the hydropower station Los Cipreses on section GPT06 or you may be escorted off property if hiking southbound. The permit is essential for hiking northbound and relatively easy to obtain with proper advanced notice and due diligence.

Satellite Image 2: Group B



2.3.3 Group C: Pehuenche | GPT10 - GPT16

Group C: Zona Pehuenche		
Sections	GPT10 to GPT16	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking	
Benefit of Packraft	Deployable	
Adjacent Groups	Group B: Zona Arrieros Group D: Lagos Chilenos	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Recommended	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

Table 26: Section Group C Summary

On the third section group from GPT10 to GPT16 you traverse a distinctly indigenous sub-region: the homeland of the *Pehuenche*. This native community is often considered part of the *Mapuche* nation that maintained their independence until late into the 19th century. They are normally very kind and can be curious but also tend to be reserved and cautious with any outsider.

They live in villages in the mountain valleys but also move up on higher grazing grounds during the summer very much like the *arrieros* do. But in contrast to the *arrieros* you will meet more women and entire families, sometimes three generations living together in small summer shelters. Some milk their cows and make cheese. In summer and autumn they harvest the *piñones* of the Araucaria tree what is the staple food of their traditional diet. Once you discover how to collect and prepare these seeds you will have an unlimited food supply along the trail provided that you scheduled the traverse of this area to match the harvest season.

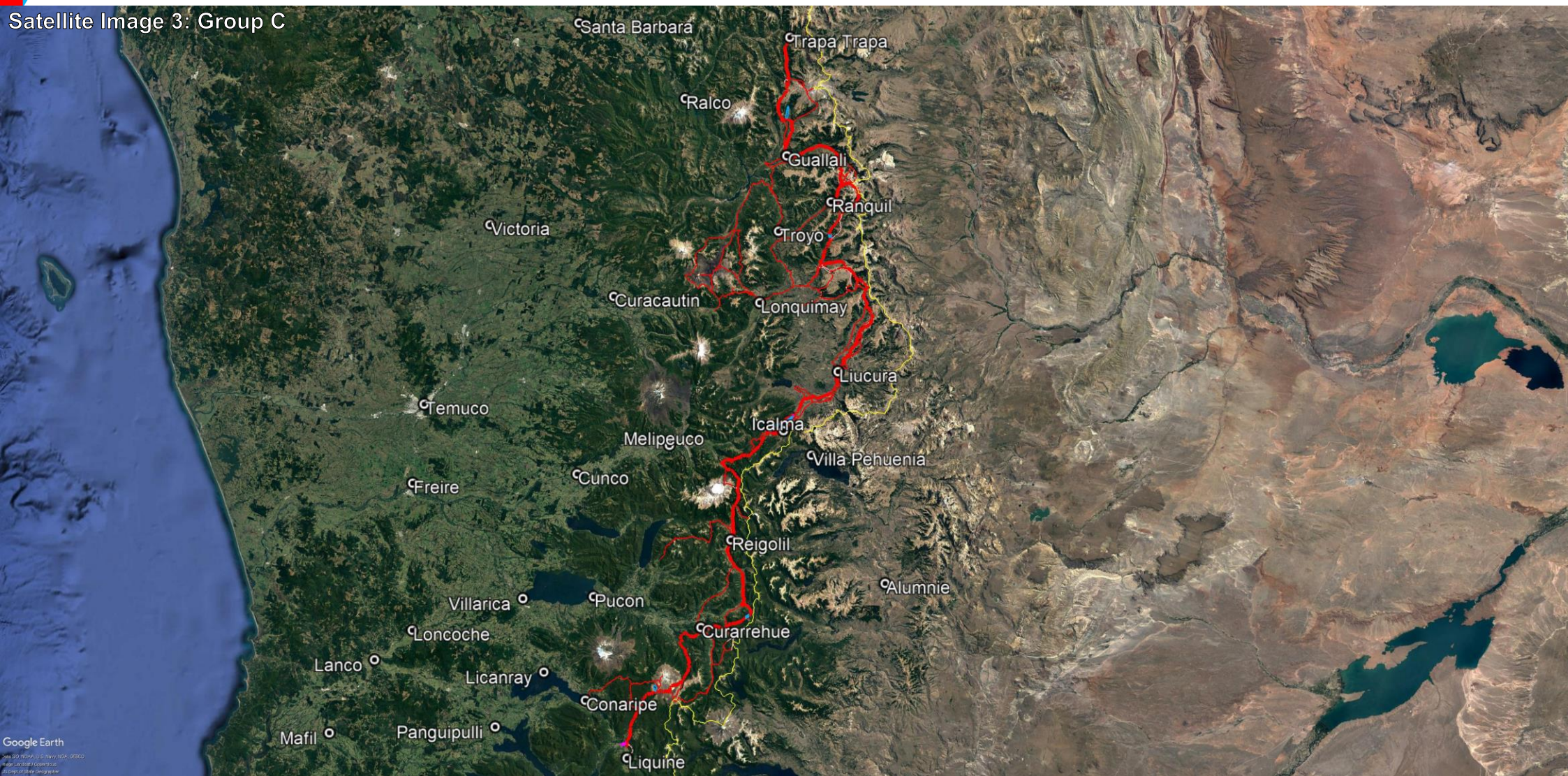
These Araucaria trees are one defining element of this landscape and a highlight of this sub-region. Areas where old growth trees have been preserved create and impressive scenery. If then a large band of squawking parrots crosses your path you may feel like in mystery forest.

Volcanos are the other defining element with some being quite active. So don’t be surprised if you see clouds of dark smoke rising into the sky. The soil you are walking on is mainly volcanic ash from past eruptions reminding you of the powers that you are surrounded by.

While you move through the homeland of the *Pehuenche* you will notice a gradual change of the flora. In the north the forest is rather open with large treeless areas in between, often the result of fire clearing. As you move south the annual precipitation increases and so does the vegetation. When going southbound you will leave this unique sub-region while walking through lush dense forest.

In this section group the extra weight of the packraft gear will not pay off except you except you come specifically to visit the few lakes.

Satellite Image 3: Group C



2.3.4 Group D: Lagos Chilenos | GPT17 - GPT22

Group D: Lagos Chilenos		
Sections	GPT17 to GPT22	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group C: Zona Pehuenche Group E: Lagos Argentinos Group N: Fiordos Norte	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Recommended	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑ (6)	Both ↓↑ (2, 6)
Comments: (6) "Flip-Flop" recommended on GPT22 and GPT29P.		

Table 27: Section Group D Summary

This section group has two very different faces. The majority of the trail dives though the twilight of lush green tempered rainforest with some remaining old growth forests. The dense forest tears open along the clear cold rivers that constantly refill deep blue lakes and the renowned Patagonian fjords.

The other so different face of this group is the volcanic lunar landscape. Two extended volcanic areas rise out of the rainforest with the last major eruption occurring in 2011. The trail climbs up and out of the rainforest to traverse wide fields of grey ash and snake around massive streams of black lava boulders. You can summit the volcanos and stare from the rim into a wide-open crater. The contrast between the engulfing forest and the hostile volcanic terrain is mind-blowing.

With this sub-region the packraft dreamland begins. You can cover about a third of the distance on water floating down calm river, crossing immense lakes and even paddling in the Patagonian fjords.

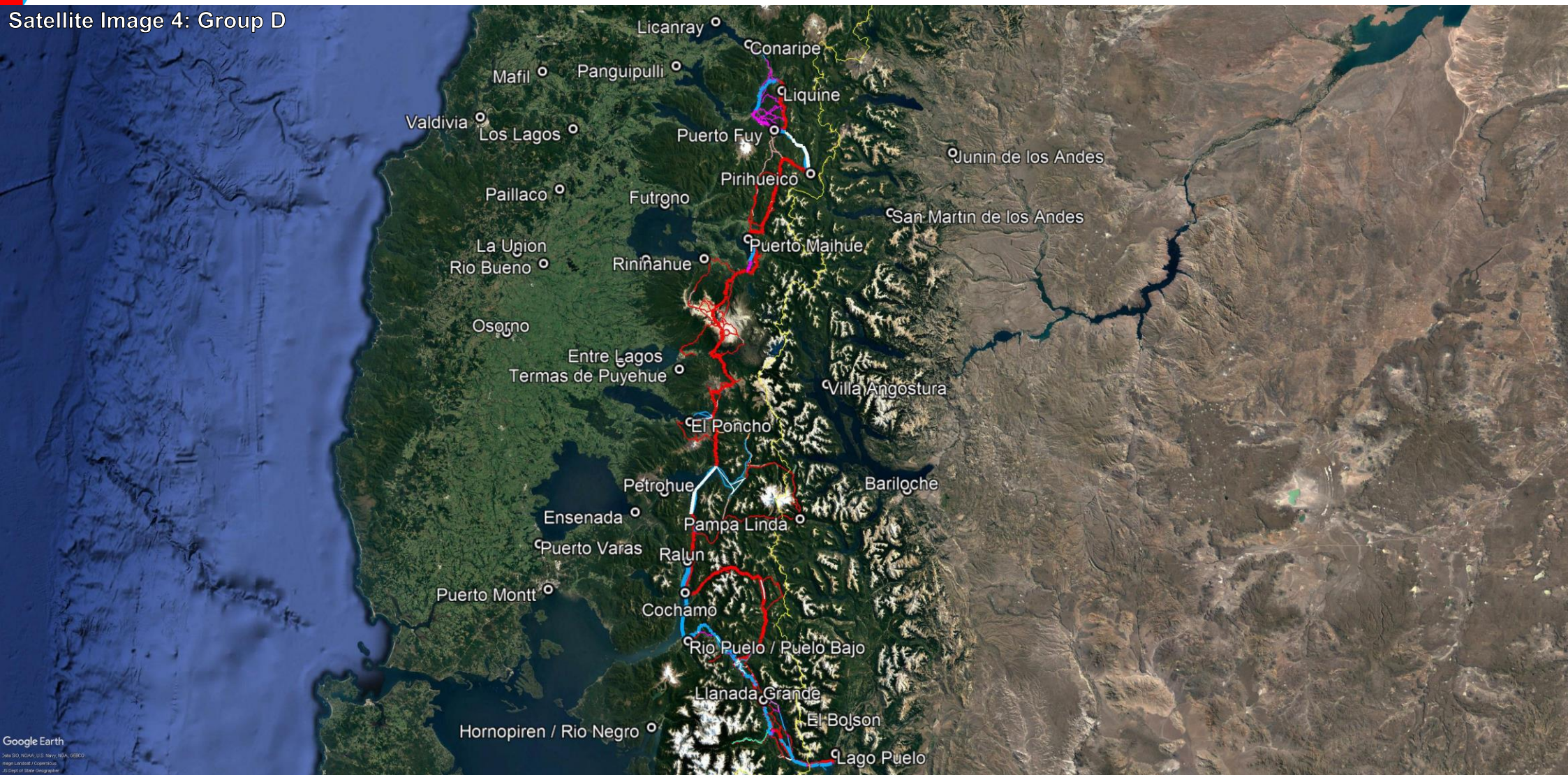
In this group the climate cools considerably and rain become more frequent. But where the trail remains in the forest you are less exposed than further north. Only the two volcano crossings get you high up in open terrain where condition can turn hostile even in mid-summer if you are hit by bad weather.

Trail maintenance varies throughout this sub-region. In parts you have well maintained forest roads; then you walk on frequently used horse trails but in some spots you need to fight your way through overgrown terrain because old trails have been abandoned.

Crossing through the “private for profit natural reserve” Huilo-Huilo on section GPT18 can be complicated by private guards.

Without a packraft you need to organize a private boat transfer over the Lago Todos Los Santos with one of the settlers on the trail. The border crossing from Chile into Argentina on the southern end of this sub-region is uncomplicated if you walk into the two police stations on either side of the border to get the obligatory passport stamps.

Satellite Image 4: Group D



2.3.5 Group E: Lagos Argentinos | GPT23 - GPT26

Chile and Argentina are like two brothers that share a lot but have some distinct differences in appearance and attitude. The relation between both countries is pretty much like between siblings; they can stand together and feel strong family ties but there is also some sibling rivalry, just like two little boys that quietly play together in the sandbox and a moment later they scream and fight over one toy that both grabbed at the same time. This sub-region is your opportunity to get to know the other brother. You can explore the difference of the Argentine culture and way of life i.e. by visiting the hippie town of El Bolsón at the end of section GPT22 and the start of GPT23.

Group E: Lagos Argentinos		
Sections	GPT23 to GPT26	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group D: Lagos Chilenos Group F: Sector Palena Group M: Sector Yelcho	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Only ↓ (3)
Comments: (3) Due to the flow direction of the incorporated rivers only southbound travel is feasible.		

Table 28: Section Group F Summary

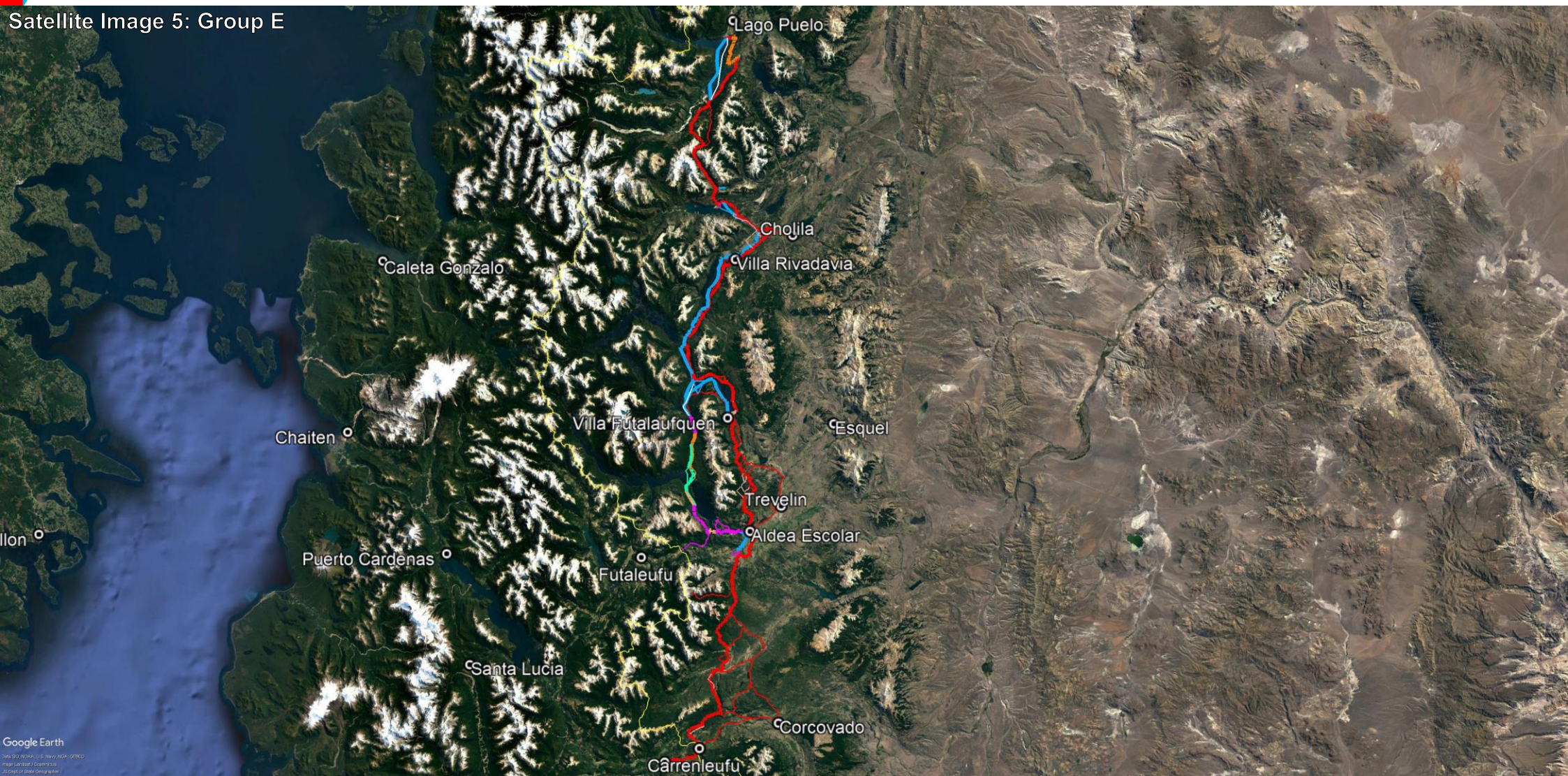
The hiking route of this sub-region borders numerous pristine lakes and rivers and crosses forest and patches of cattle grazing land. The route passes two national parks and several large private properties (*estancias*). You can enjoy many gorgeous views and some sections of this group are generally easy walking. Here the GPT follows in large parts the Huella Andina, a trail project initiated by Estefania Chereguini and Walter Oszust. This project unfortunately came to a halt when the Argentine Ministry of Tourism assumed control and forced the founders out. This and recent wild fires mean that parts of the trail are no longer maintained and become overgrown.

A very challenging but fascinating highlight of this sub-region is the traverse from Lago Puelo to Lago Cholila that contains some demanding bush bashing and walking in rivers to avoid the dense vegetation. Here you can test what it takes to walk without a trail though partly engulfing forest. This experience may reconcile you with the larger proportion of road walking that is unavoidable if hiking and not packrafting.

With this group the packraft dreamland continues. The distance on water exceeds 40%. In particular from Lago Cholila to Lago Kruger you have a long continuous water route of interconnecting lakes and rivers where you don’t need to leave the water for 3 or 4 days except to rest and to camp.

In this group rain is rare but heat can be a burden since the trail snakes along of the eastern edge of the Andes in the rain shadow. Expect to climb over many fences and closed gates since the more leveled ground on the eastern edge of the Andes is used as grazing land for large herds of cattle. In the National Park “Los Alerces” you will meet large crowds on the camp sites but a short stroll from these tourist hot-spots you will encounter much less people. On the southern terminus of this section group you return to Chile on a paved road where collecting your passport stamps is straightforward.

Satellite Image 5: Group E



2.3.6 Group F: Sector Palena | GPT27 - GPT30

In the sub-region Palena the hiking and the packrafting route divide and follow completely different bearings. The hiking route goes south while the packraft route takes you to the west to the Patagonian fjords and the Pacific Ocean.

If hiking you follow historic horse trails and quiet back roads that traverse a thickly forested region. A major trail section are *Rutas Patrimoniales* (national heritage trails) that are beautiful hiking, with a wonderful perspective of history. The wide river valleys are lovely as are the views when you can see through the trees. Sparsely populated, it gives an idea of the hardy and kind people who inhabit Patagonia.

Group F: Sector Palena		
Sections	GPT27 to GPT30	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group E: Lagos Argentinos Group G: Aysen Norte Group M: Sector Yelcho	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Only ↓ (3)
Comments: (3) Due to the flow direction of the incorporated rivers only southbound travel is feasible.		

Table 29: Section Group F Summary

If hiking be aware that parts of the route receive little to no maintenance. Also, a part of the hiking route is not yet recorded by GPS. Both makes this sub-region a route-finding challenge for hikers. Some river crossings of the hiking route can be impassable till the beginning of the summer or after heavy rain. This should be considered when timing your adventure and calculating your food rations.

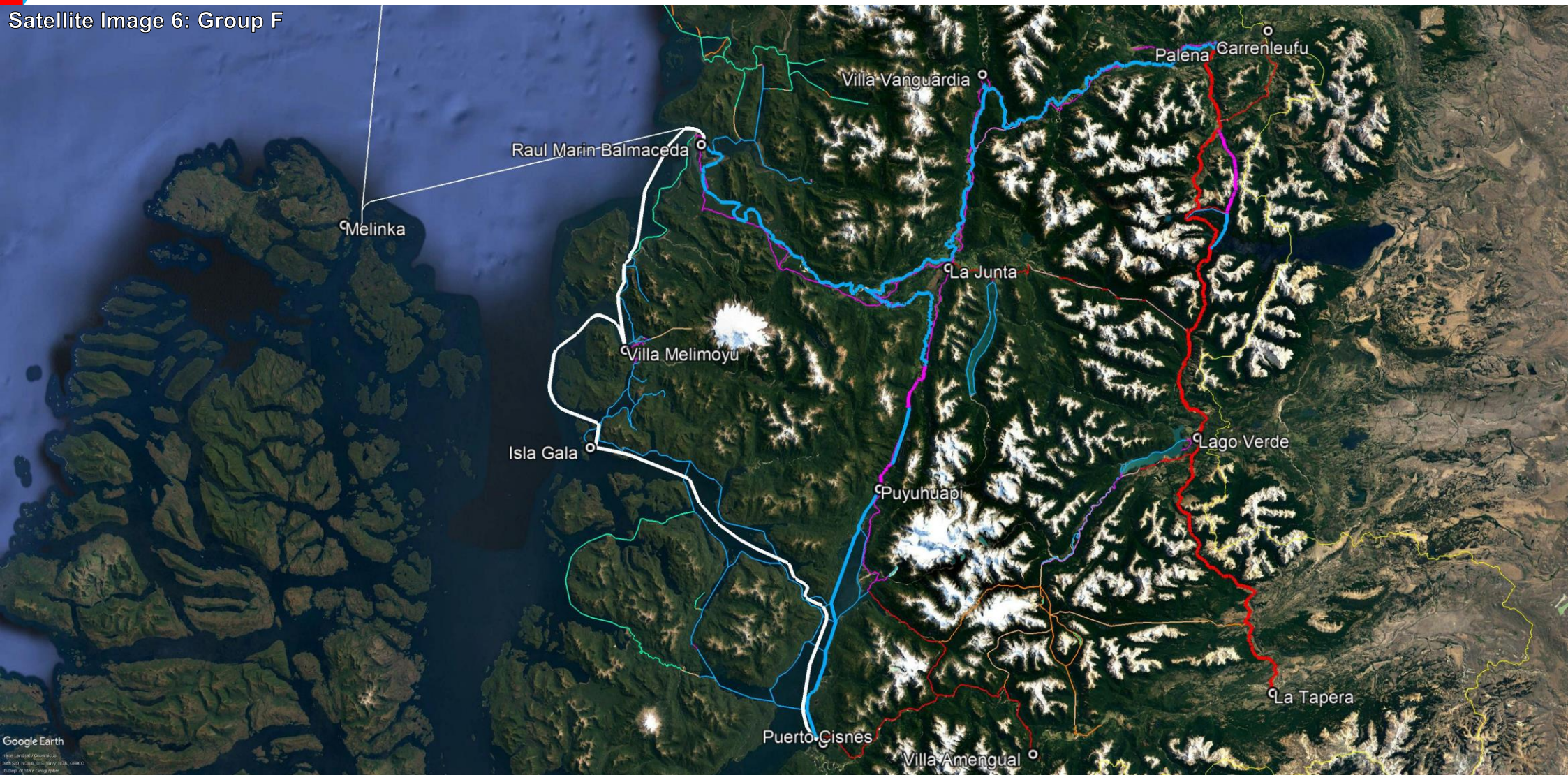
For packrafters this sub-region is an unmatched highlight of the GPT. Just two kilometers after leaving the village Palena the packraft can be inflated and put into the generally calm river Palena. From there it is 4 to 6-day float until reaching the Fjord

Pitipalena and the tiny harbor village Raul Marin Balmaceda. Don’t try to be fast to enjoy the scenery. Also leave the river to meet some of the families that live for three or four generations on the shore of this powerful but unhurried river.

From Raul Marin Balmaceda you best take the ferry to Puerto Chacabuco. With favorable weather this becomes a very scenic boat ride through the Patagonian fjords. On the way, the ferry stops at various tiny settlements where you might leave the ship to do some challenging exploration tours by packraft in the fjords.

During snow melt in spring and after periods of heavy rain the river level rises and the water flow accelerates making packrafting this river more demanding and dangerous. The few rapids can normally be scouted and portaged if needed but your constant attention is needed to evade the countless sunken trees that lurk under the water. Towards the Pacific Ocean the river valley widens exposing you to sometimes heavy head wind and when you reach the intertidal zone the flow direction inverse twice per day for several hours. So understand the tidal cycles and get tidal charts to better anticipate when to paddle and when to wait. When choosing your last camp site make sure that you do not pitch your tent in the intertidal zone. Otherwise you may suddenly wake up in a rising river.

Satellite Image 6: Group F



2.3.7 Group G: Aysen Norte | GPT29 - GPT31

Group G: Aysen Norte		
Sections	GPT29 to GPT31	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group F: Sector Palena Group H: Aysen Sur	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2, 6)
Comments: (6) "Flip-Flop" recommended on GPT22 and GPT29P.		

Table 30: Section Group G Summary

In the sub-region Aysen Norte the hiking and the packrafting routes remain divided and rejoin at the southern end of this section group. The hiking route is located further to the east partly at the edge of the Andes where the arid Patagonian pampa begins. The packrafting route is further to the west and crosses the main mountain range of the Andes along deep mostly wide valleys.

The hiking route largely follows an array of roads, from impassible by vehicle to main thoroughfares and is easy walking. A few notable peaks can be viewed along the way and water is ample. The few villages are safe, simple, and kind. Most of the landscape along the hiking route was transformed by fire clearings in the 20th century to create grazing land. In some areas these fire scares are covered by newly grown forest, others remaining pastures but you will also spot the effects of erosion the followed the fires. Only occasionally you walk through old growth forests. Coyhaique is the largest city directly on GPT and has several outdoor shops, which, while overpriced, can help in a pinch. This is also the center for “Patagonia Sin Represas” so if you have a chance, stop by!

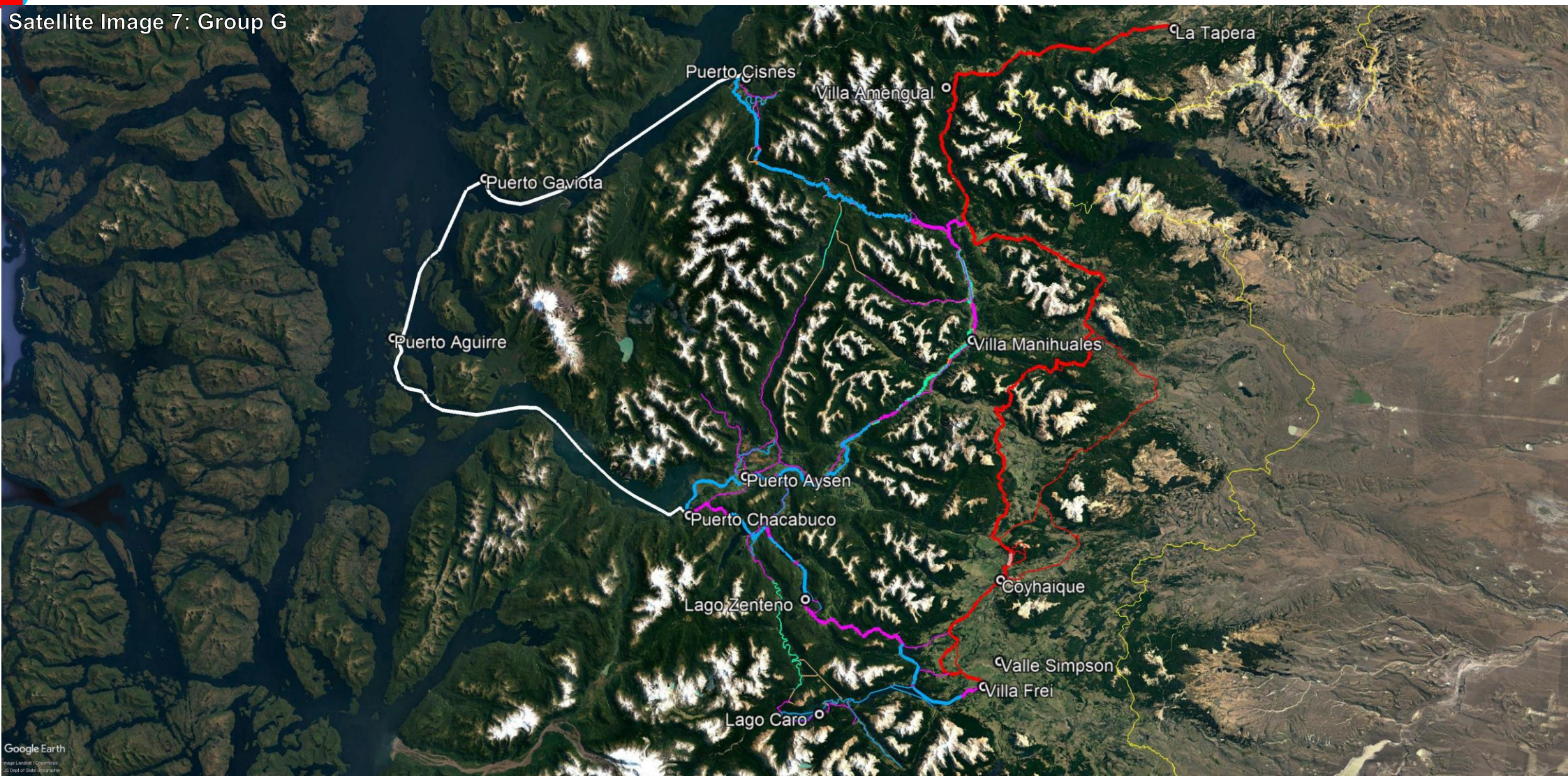
Since the hiking route consists to about 90% of minor and primary roads I don’t recommend traversing this sub-region on foot except if you advocate connecting footsteps or if you are a die-heard thru-hiker that attempts hiking the entire Main Route of the

GPT in two seasons without packrafting.

The packrafting route is much more scenic than the hiking option. With about half the distance on water carrying a inflatable boat really pays off. The route connects half a dozen lakes and some river sections and requires walking on minor roads because the historic horse trails have been upgraded in the last one or two decades. When talking to the few settlers on the shore of the lakes and along the roads you can gain a very personal insight how this harsh land got settled during the 20th century.

Note that wind on these lakes can be powerful and rain is frequent and cold. If going southbound then wind is normally favorable. But be prepared to sit out periods of unsafe strong wind even if blasting in your travel direction.

Satellite Image 7: Group G



2.3.8 Group H: Aysen Sur | GPT32 - GPT37

This group provides a perspective of the quintessential spirit and landscape of Patagonia, from open windy passes and glaciers to deeply wooded valleys that channel the glacier melt into turquoise rivers and lakes. Cerro Castillo and the route between Cochrane and Villa O'Higgins called *Ruta de los Pioneros* are highlights of the GPT, in particular if you are aware of the historic relevance of this trail and if you meet the few people that make their living on this harsh land. Expect to approach both landscape and people with patience and respect.

Group H: Aysen Sur		
Sections	GPT32 to GPT36	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group G: Aysen Norte Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)
Comments: (2) Depending on the direction of travel different waters may be partially packrafted.		

Table 31: Section Group H Summary

Challenges in this region are remoteness, volatile weather and partly poor trail conditions. The walking distance from Chile Chico to Villa O'Higgins is about 350 km and you have just the village Chochrane to resupply in the middle. The partially difficult route finding on the *Ruta de los Pioneros* probably reconciles you with the easy but tiresome road walking on either end of this historic trail.

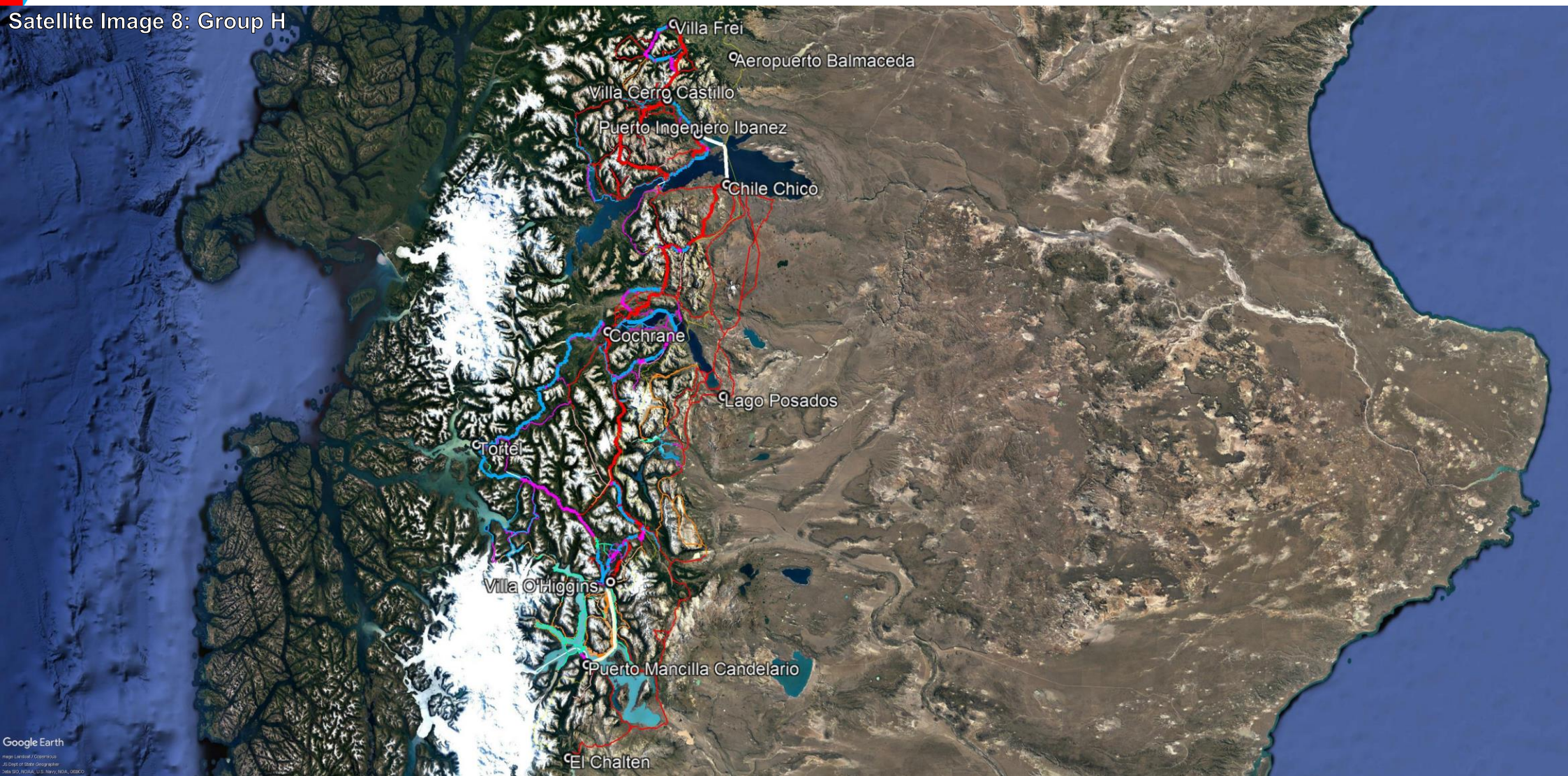
When packrafting you can opt between numerous routes and variants. You can mostly follow the hiking route and paddle the lakes and calm river sections next to the hiking route or your can opt between multiple packrafting exploration sections that transform your journey in an expedition into particular remote backcountry. These exploration options include a continuous human-powered

route with packraft crossings of the wind-beaten Lago General Carrera at a 3 km wide narrow, you may opt to float down the powerful high-volume river Río Baker or you may attempt the Packrafting Specials around the eastern or the western edge of the Northern Patagonian Icefield. These exploration routes are only recommended to highly experienced packrafters that know southern Patagonia from previous journeys.

But don’t undermine regular packrafting route just because there are much more challenging options; the regular route is adventure enough. Traversing the windy Lago Cochrane requires more patience than bravery to sit out periods of heavy wind. This 42 km lake passage will get most packrafters to or beyond the comfort zone limit and every packrafter should think well if rather following the regular hiking route instead.

This group is sure to be a favorite among hikers and packrafters that seek to be challenged by difficult terrain.

Satellite Image 8: Group H



2.3.9 Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1 | GPT38 - GPT40

The giant Southern Patagonian Icefield extends 350 km in North-South direction and is in average 35 km wide. The northern terminus is located at the latitude of Villa O'Higgins. Immense glaciers creep down from this Icefield in all directions and some glaciers constantly refill the Lago O'Higgins with huge blocks of ice and turquoise glacier melt. This lake is often considered the most challenging lake in South America due to the heavy and very variable wind in the different arms of the lake.

Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1		
Sections	GPT37 to GPT40	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group H: Aysen Sur Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)
Comments: (2) Depending on the direction of travel different waters may be partially packrafted.		

Table 32: Section Group I Summary

To continue southbound hikers need to take the ferry that crosses this wind battered lake and unloads you next to the tiny settlement Candelario Mansilla, where a Chilean police outpost provides you with the required passport exit stamp. From here you can walk either directly into Argentina or follow the much more scenic routes along the shore of the lake. Some optional trails get you face to face with various glaciers that flow down from the Icefield. At the northern end of Lago del Desierto the Argentine police outpost will verify that you got your Chilean exit stamp and if so, give you an entry stamp for Argentina. Rules and regulations are unclear how long you may walk in the no-mans-land in between both police posts.

The trail along Lago del Desierto is a beautiful walk and provides inspiring first peeks at one of the most famous highlights of this

region, Cerro Fitz Roy at the eastern edge of the Icefield. Multiple optional trails get you to various lookouts and glaciers and you should walk at least some of these options. Cerro Torre seen from the Laguna Torre is one of the most pictured views. The GPT currently terminates with the *Huelta Huemul*, a 60 km circuit that gets you to the edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefield and with perfect views over the glacier Viedma that flows into Lago Viedma.

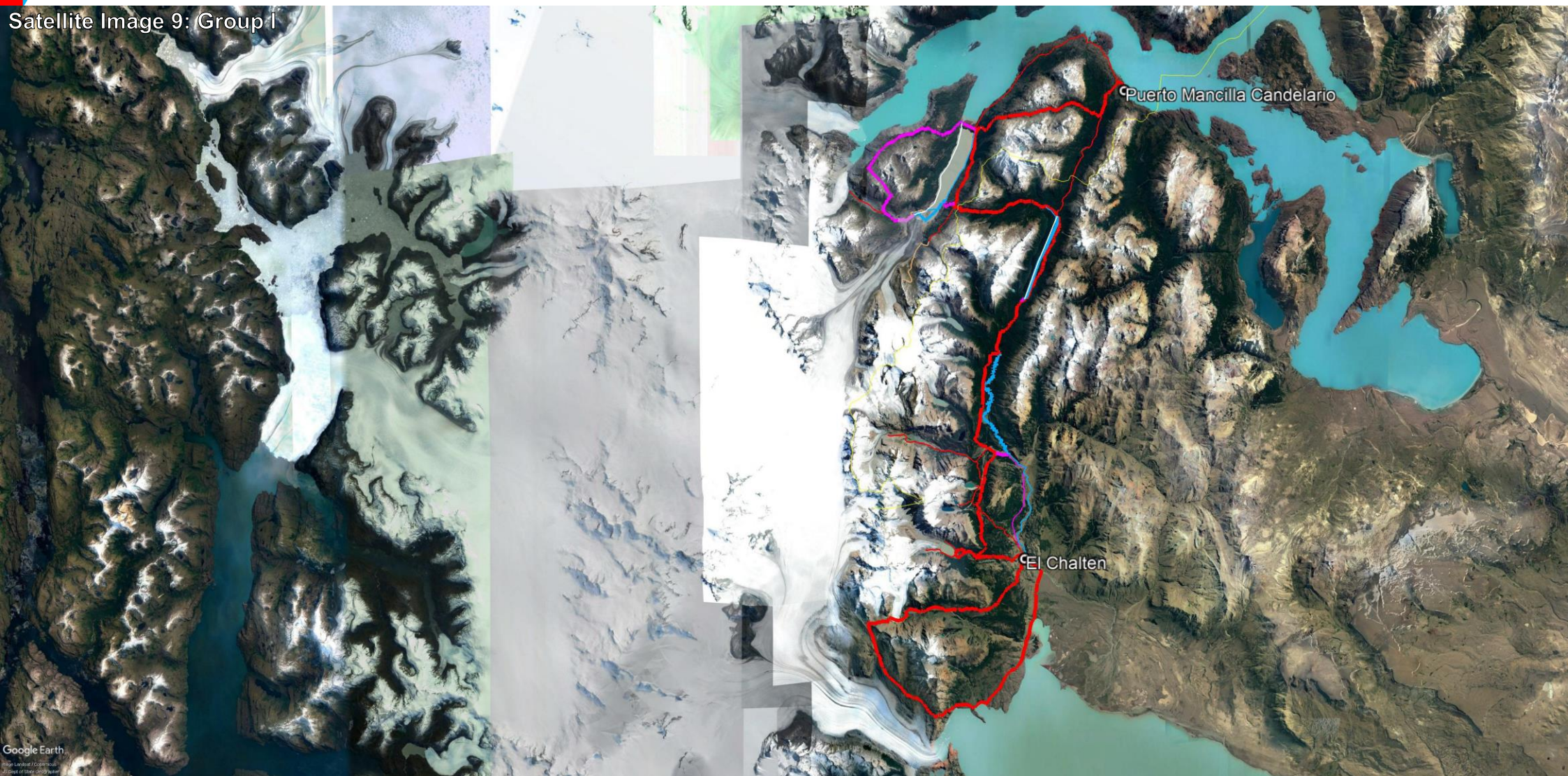
During peak tourist season the area next to Cerro Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre and the town of El Chalten are extremely crowded, which can be a difficult shift from the solitude of Patagonia that you experience on most parts of the GPT. Climate can be challenging and in particular the *Huelta Huemul* should only be attempted if the weather and wind forecast is suitable for this exposed terrain.

When packrafting you rather take the ferry over Lago O'Higgins as well. The packrafting exploration section GPT37P traverses the Peninsula Florida and requires a crossing the Lago O'Higgins at a 4 km wide narrow. This is a difficult challenge since the terrain and the climate is the opposite to what people associate with Florida. The two barely used trails on the Peninsula Florida remain unrecorded so route finding will be difficult to plan and if you get stuck you need to backtrack several days or wait up to 10 days for a boat that supplies the 3 settlers on the shore of the Peninsula Florida.

The packrafting route of the following section GPT38 will probably provide you with the Patagonia experience you are dreaming off. You can walk to a number of lookouts with perfect views over glaciers and in a calm moment you may cross Lago Chico where the Glacier Chico unloads its ice. This is probably the most impressive but not risk-free packrafting part of the GPT as you are in between the glacier edge and giant blocks of floating ice. Keep distance!

On the following section GPT39 be careful with Lago del Desierto; it can be an innocent looking beast. While calm on one end fierce wind can blow in the middle. Río de la Vueltas is a calm and easy to paddle river that saves you some otherwise annoying road walking.

Satellite Image 9: Group I



2.3.10 Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2 | GPT41 - GPT46

The planned and verified Main Route currently ends with GPT40 at shore of Lago Viedma. With this section group begins the sub-region where highly experienced hikers that are already familiar with Patagonia may take the challenge to investigate the Southern Route of the GPT. Read chapter 2.1.4 The Southern Route | GPT41 - GPT69 on page 338 for more information to the Southern Route and the obstacles that need to be overcome. Planning and preparing a continuous traverse of this section-group with connecting footsteps is as demanding as the traverse itself.

Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2		
Sections	GPT41 to GPT46	
Planning Status	Mostly Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1 Group K: Magallanes	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

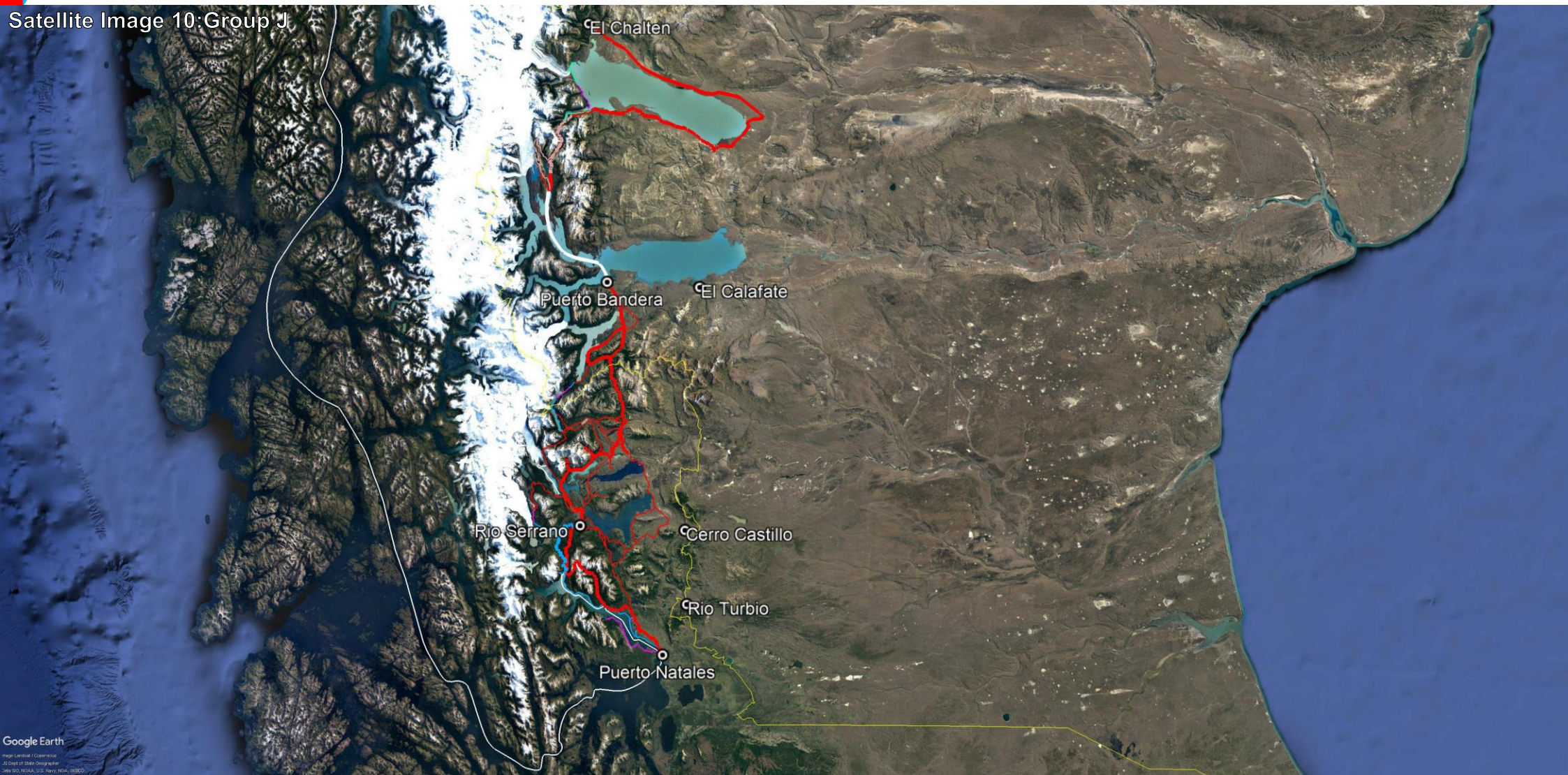
Table 33: Section Group J Summary

This sub-region is in character and attractiveness similar to the adjacent northern section group. Like in the north the prospective trail winds along the western edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefield where immense glaciers flow into large wind battered lakes. The route passes two of the three heavily hyped tourist magnets of Patagonia: the glacier Perito Moreno and the national park Torres del Paine. But more impressive than these two overrun spots are the barely visited areas in between that do not lack beauty but infrastructure and remain therefore “off the radar” of more visitors.

Packrafters may float down the rivers Río Grey and Río Serrano with an optional side trip to Lago Geike. What makes packrafting

is this area challenging is the generally heavy and gusty wind. This wind impedes crossing the larger lakes and fjords by packraft and only a daredevil would gamble with his lives in such an attempt.

Satellite Image 10:Group J



2.3.11 Group K: Magallanes | GPT47 - GPT50

When reaching the town Puerto Natales you leave the high and glacier covered mountains and you enter the windy tundra of the region Magallanes. The mostly flat and low pains have a low vegetation cover. This creates a sharp contrast to the mountains further north. Expect a windy, cold and sometimes wet land that makes the investigation of the prospective route exhausting. The route follows mostly minor car tracks to isolated livestock farms but in some parts you have to seek your way cross-country and bush-bash as no continuous hiker-friendly route seems to exist. It will be a demanding adventure that gets you past the one or the other surprised gaucho in his outpost but you will be mostly on your own.

Group K: Magallanes		
Sections	GPT47 to GPT50	
Planning Status	Mostly Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2 Group L: Tierra del Fuego	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)
Comments: (2) Depending on the direction of travel different waters may be partially packrafted.		

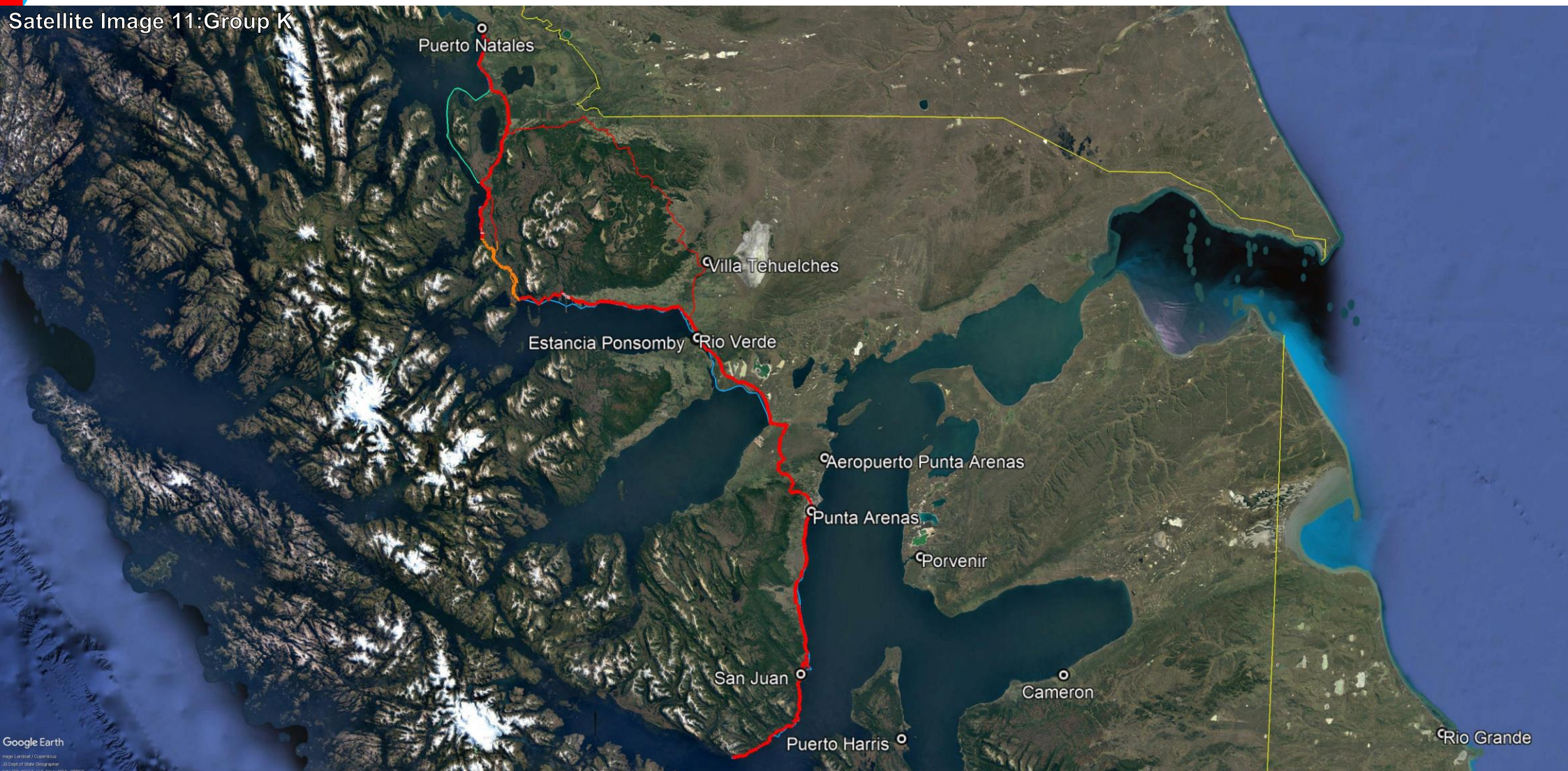
Table 34: Section Group K Summary

After roughly three quarters of the distance you reach the capital of this region: Punta Arenas. Here you can recover and recharge for the final stretch to Cabo Froward, the most southern point of continental Americas. South of this point are only islands. The prominent location of this desolate windy place attracts at last a few visitors each year and a published trail facilitates walking this final leg.

Packrafters may consider two smaller rivers in this sub-region to minimize road walking but the overall benefit of the extra weight

is limited. The wind is simply most of the time too strong and only from a couch perspective packrafting along the coast looks tempting. So, don’t assume that you can replace road walking by paddling.

Take it as a warning that the few long-distance hikers that crossed this area followed often the paved main roads to archive their mission. Only few patient hikers took off-road routes for a slower but more attractive walk to make it a surprising journey across Magallanes.


Satellite Image 11:Group K
Puerto Natales
Villa Tehuelches
Estancia Ponsomby
Rio Verde
Aeropuerto Punta Arenas
Punta Arenas
Porvenir
San Juan
Cameron
Puerto Harris
Rio Grande
Google Earth

2.3.12 Group L: Tierra del Fuego | GPT60 - GPT69

Group L: Tierra del Fuego		
Sections	GPT60 to GPT69	
Planning Status	Mostly Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group K: Magallanes	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

Table 35: Section Group L Summary

When Chile and Argentina negotiated in 1881 their borders they could not agree on who gets the island Tierra del Fuego. Therefore, a straight line was drawn that divides this piece of land in nearly equal parts. 130 years ago, the primary question was who controls the *Estrecho de Magallanes* (Magellan Strait) and not who exploits this barely explored island. As a result, Tierra del Fuego remains divided and in only two locations you can legally cross the 250 km long border between Chile and Argentina. These two border crossings are located north of the Cordillera Darwin with one crossing being occasionally closed when one river is too high to be forded by car. This complicates and enlarges a traverse of the island substantially. You may apply for a special expedition permit to cross this border in a different location, but I have no knowledge what it actually takes to get it approved. What I know is that crossing Tierra del Fuego with minimal road walking is an expedition that must be prepared as such long in advance.

The rather flat and low northern and eastern parts of the island are used as grazing land mainly for sheep. In the south and the south-west of the island rises the Cordillera Darwin partly above 2000 m and all higher peaks are covered by glaciers. But deep valleys and fjords break profound branches into this mountain range creating some hikeable passages.

A few gravel roads traverse the tundra-like landscape of Tierra de Fuego and a single paved road provides access to the Argentine towns Río Grande and Ushuaia. To cross this island on foot you need to walk on these roads and only in parts you should accept the demanding challenge of searching a part of your way off-road. There are a few cross-country routes that traverse the mountain range and that finally reach the Beagle Channel on the southern shore of the island. These cross-country routes are located on the Chilean and the Argentine side.

The Chilean side of this island is in most parts uninhabited and reaching the Beagle Channel here means that you need to pre-arrange your return to Punta Arenas or your continuation to Puerto Williams carefully. You may walk on roads to the western end of the Lago Fagnano and from here an occasionally used cross-country route gets you to the Bahia Yendegaia where a single *estancia* (cattle farm) and a police outpost are located next to the Beagle Channel. It’s the border that makes this place so godforsaken. The Argentine town Ushuaia is just 20 km to east but there is no legal border crossing. The police post exists to make sure that you don’t cross the border. So, don’t get there without having arranged your exit by boat to eventually leave this desolate beauty.

Alternatively, you may walk on the gravel roads and cross from Chile into Argentina on one of the two regular border crossings. Once in Argentina you may turn south, cross the Lago Fagnano by boat and then climb over the mountain range towards Ushuaia.

Regardless what option you choose it’s most of the distance road walking through a flat and windy landscape and the off-road part through the Cordillera Darwin makes it an exploration that requires a tedious preparation and a demanding climb through the mountains.

A few kilometers south of Tierra del Fuego on the other side of the Beagle Cannel is the Chilean island Navarino. It became somewhat known for the most southern hiking trail in the world. Access to this island is complicated but a growing number of people visit this place. These hikers are primarily attracted by the particular southern location and not by the unique landscape. If you collect geographic extremes you are probably tempted to get there as well.

I’m reluctant to state how beneficial a packraft might be. Looking on maps and satellite images you may draw brilliant packraft routes, but the wind easily bursts such plans. Big ships can struggle in this region with the wind so packrafting here is a unique challenge. I’m not ruling it out but I’m not suggesting it either.


Satellite Image 12:Group L
Aeropuerto Punta Arenas
Punta Arenas
Porvenir
San Juan
Cameron
Puerto Harris
Rio Grande
Pampa Guanaco
Tolhuin
Ushuaia
Puerto Navarino
Puerto Williams
Puerto Toro
Google Earth

2.3.13 Group M: Sector Yelcho | GPT70 - GPT75

Group M: Sector Yelcho		
Sections	GPT70 to GPT75	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group E: Lagos Argentinos Group F: Sector Palena Group N: Fiordos Norte	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ←→	Preferable ← (5)
Comments: (5) See detailed information and recommendation to individual sections.		

Table 36: Section Group M Summary

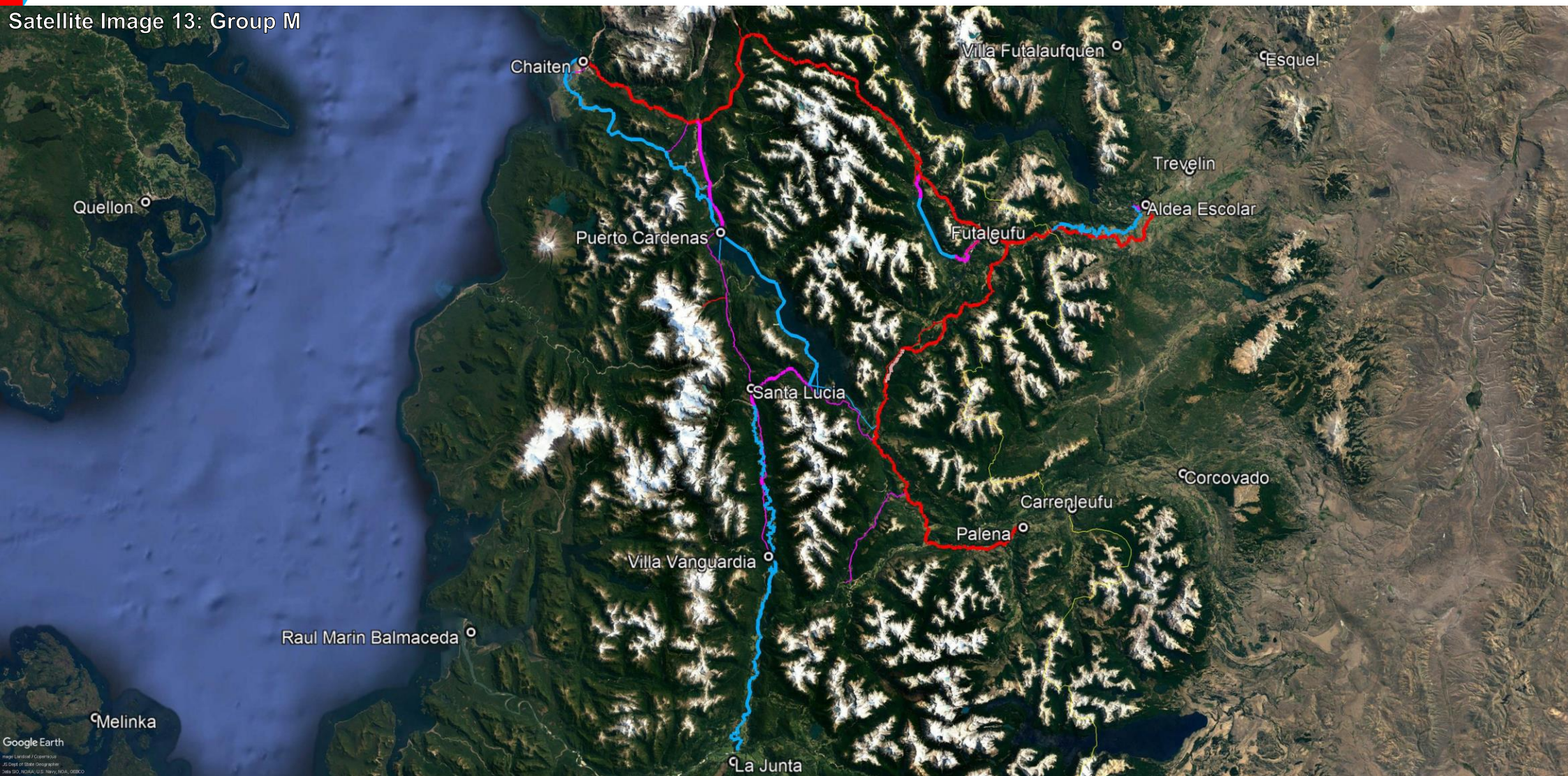
If you are not driven by the desire to collect geographic extremes but by the curiosity to explore the overlooked than this section group in central Patagonia might be of interest you. Travelling this area is only recommended with packrafting gear even if some sections of this group don't require it. To enjoy the more attractive parts in this sub-region you need a boat to float down rivers and cross lakes.

In the second half of the last century a small number of settlers followed the rivers and lakes into this remote area. Their descendants make now a living as livestock and homestead farmers in the valleys below snow-capped mountains. The suggested hiking routes follow the gravel roads and horse trails that these settlers created and with your packraft you can cross attractive lakes and float down rivers. The routes of this group form a network without a clearly set direction. From the start at river Futaleufu you can either head southwest and reconnect to the main trail at the Río Palena or; and this is to my opinion the more interesting option; you can walk and paddle northwest to finally reach the Patagonian fjords at the town Chaiten. Here you connect with the next section group in which you can explore the Patagonian fjords with your packraft.

It's an area for experienced packrafters that wish to discover a remote and normally overlooked area in the Patagonian heartland.

Meeting the welcoming settlers along the route is part of the beauty of this area and adds a unique cultural and social experience to your journey. By combining the packrafting routes of section groups D, E, M and N you can make an impressive round trip with a big packrafting proportion.

Satellite Image 13: Group M



2.3.14 Group N: Fiordos Norte | GPT76 - GPT78

Fjords are one of the defining features of Patagonia and this group explores the northern Patagonian fjords. Paddling these fjords in a packraft is demanding and exposes you to wind and weather. But attempting this in the north is smarter than trying it in the south where wind is generally stronger and suitable landing beaches are less frequent. In this northern area a few settlers picked plots of land along the coast to build their houses and grow livestock. This provides you with landing beaches, suitable camp sites and an authentic insight into the Patagonian population.

Group N: Fiordos Norte		
Sections	GPT76 to GPT78	
Planning Status	Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group D: Lagos Chilenos Group M: Sector Yelcho	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Consider
Travel Direction	Preferable ↑ (5)	Both ↓↑
Comments: (5) See detailed information and recommendation to individual sections.		

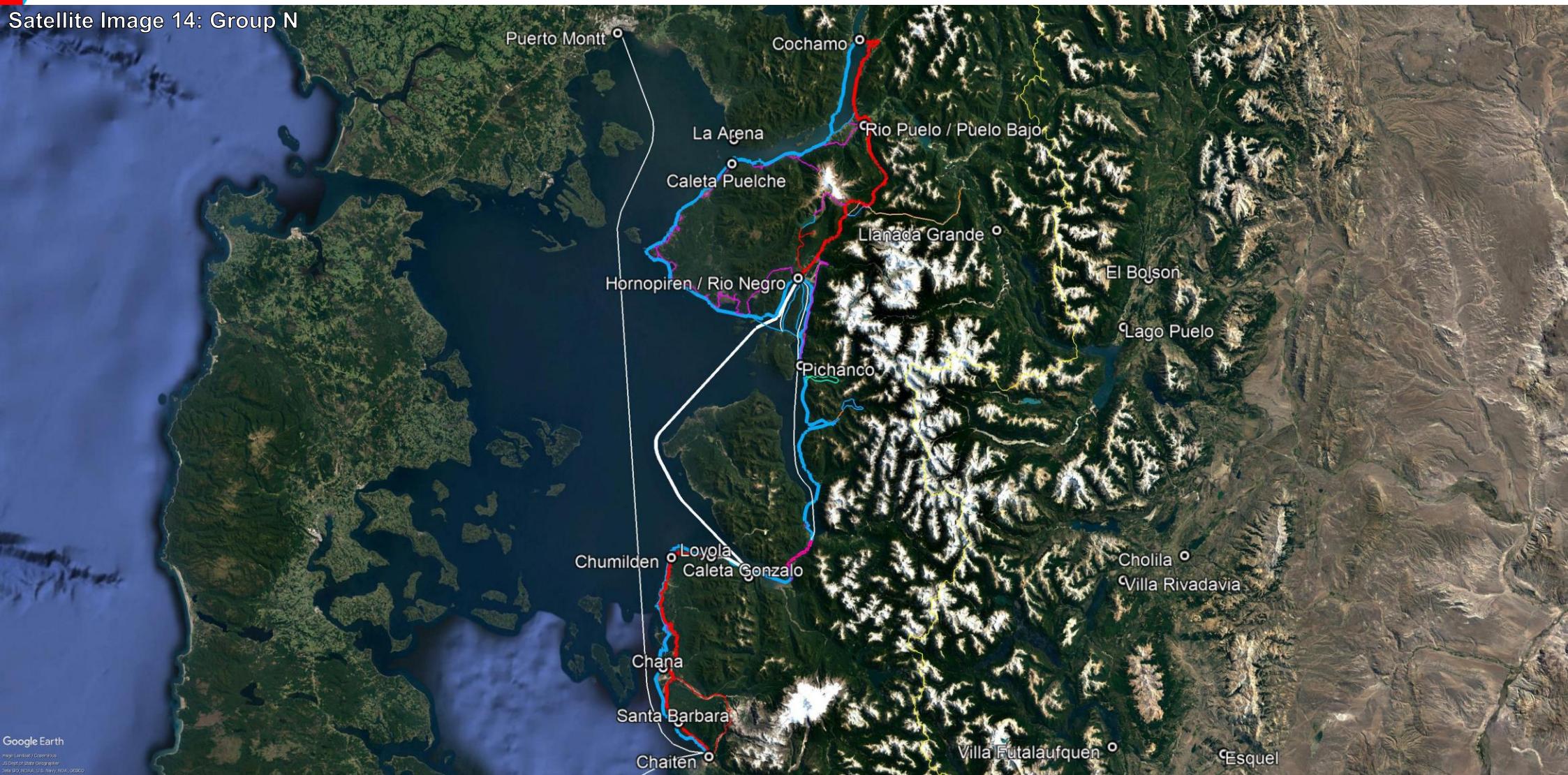
Table 37: Section Group N Summary

In some parts you can either paddle or walk along the cost depending what wind and waves permit. But about half the fjord paddling distance is next to steep mountains without any possibility to walk on land. In unfavourable condition you might find a tiny landing beach to wait for better weather but you will be unable to advance on land. This makes it a route that requires your patience to wait while the weather nails you to a beach and when tidal flows temporary turn against you. But in this sub-region you will see more wildlife than in other areas of Patagonia as the sea is full of life.

A particular demanding exploration section of this group is the connection between the port village Hornopiren and the Río Puelo. Decades ago this route was used to drive cattle from the pastures of the Puelo valley to a port on the coast for sale but the

construction of a road paralleling the Río Puelo and the operation of a ferry over Lago Tagua Tagua made this cattle trail obsolete. So a part of the historic trail is now badly overgrown and may be impossible to find and to follow. Therefore, making your way thought thick growth will be very demanding and particular slow and you should be prepared to return on the same route if you do not advance as required to make this connection.

Satellite Image 14: Group N



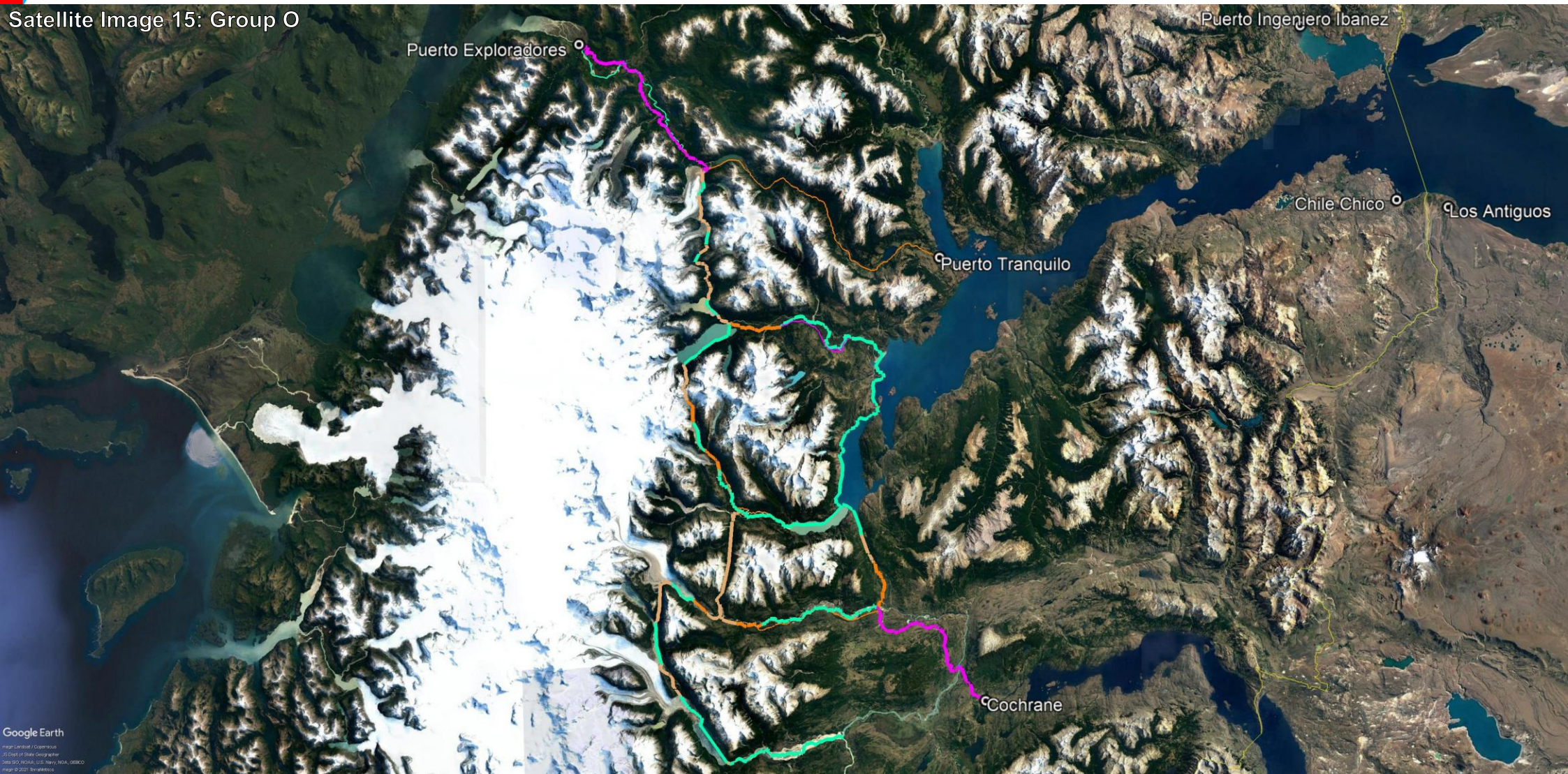
2.3.15 Group O: Campo de Hielo Norte | GPT80 - GPT83 (To be issued)

To be issued.

Group O: Campo de Hielo Norte		
Sections	GPT80 to GPT82	
Planning Status	Partially Verified (60%)	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Required	
Adjacent Groups	Group H: Aysen Sur	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	None	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

Table 38: Section Group O Summary

Satellite Image 15: Group O



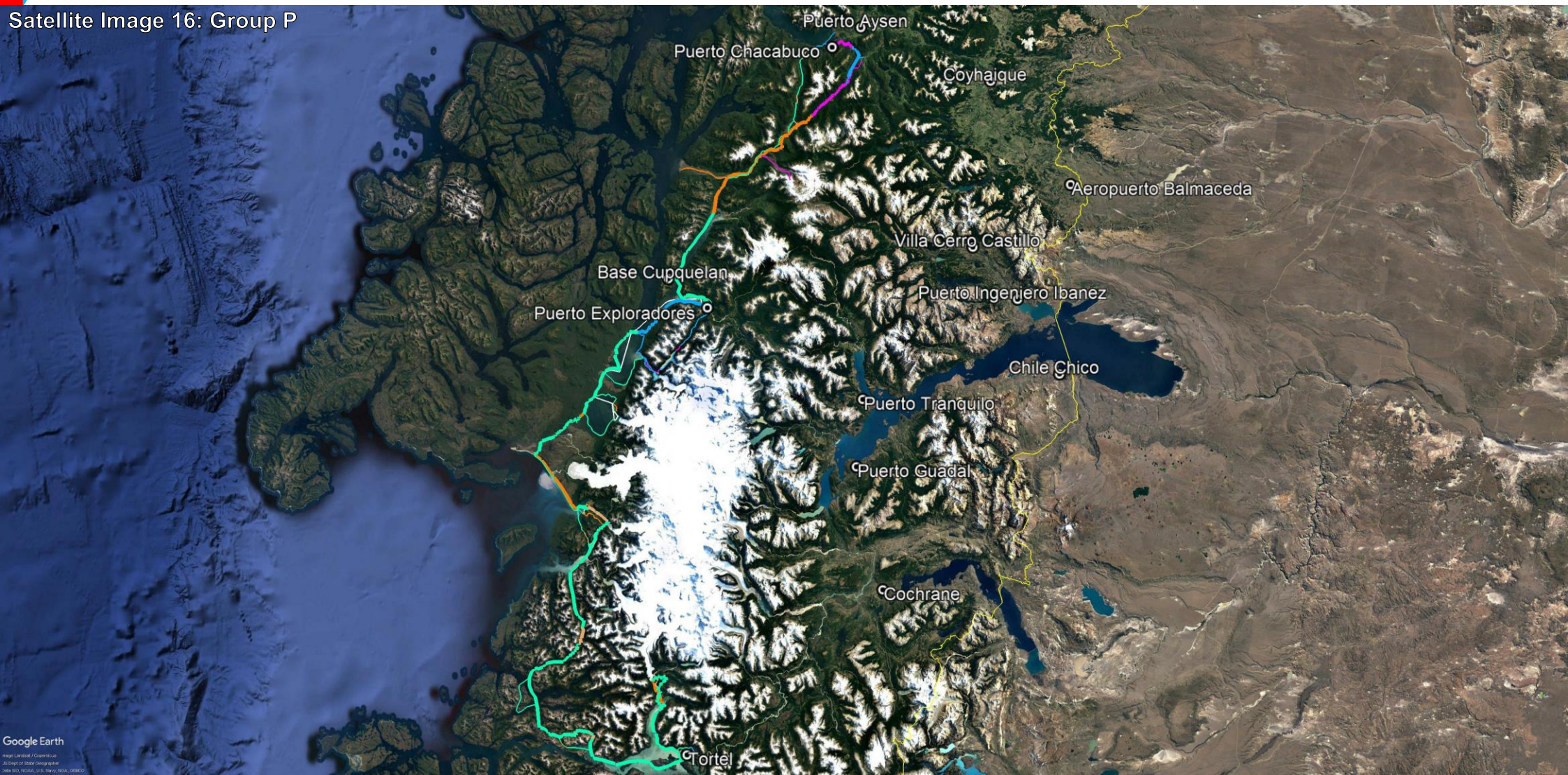
2.3.16 Group P: Fjordos Sur | GPT90 - GPT92 (To be issued)

To be issued.

Group P: Fiordos Sur		
Sections	GPT90 to GPT92	
Planning Status	Partially Verified (Only 11%)	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Required	
Adjacent Groups	Group H: Aysen Sur	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	None	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

Table 39: Section Group P Summary

Satellite Image 16: Group P



2.3.17 Group Q: Huella Andina (To be issued)

To be issued.

Group Q: Huella Andina		
Sections	-	
Planning Status	Published By Others	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group C: Zona Pehuenche Group D: Lagos Chilenos Group E: Lagos Argentinos	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

Table 40: Section Group Q Summary

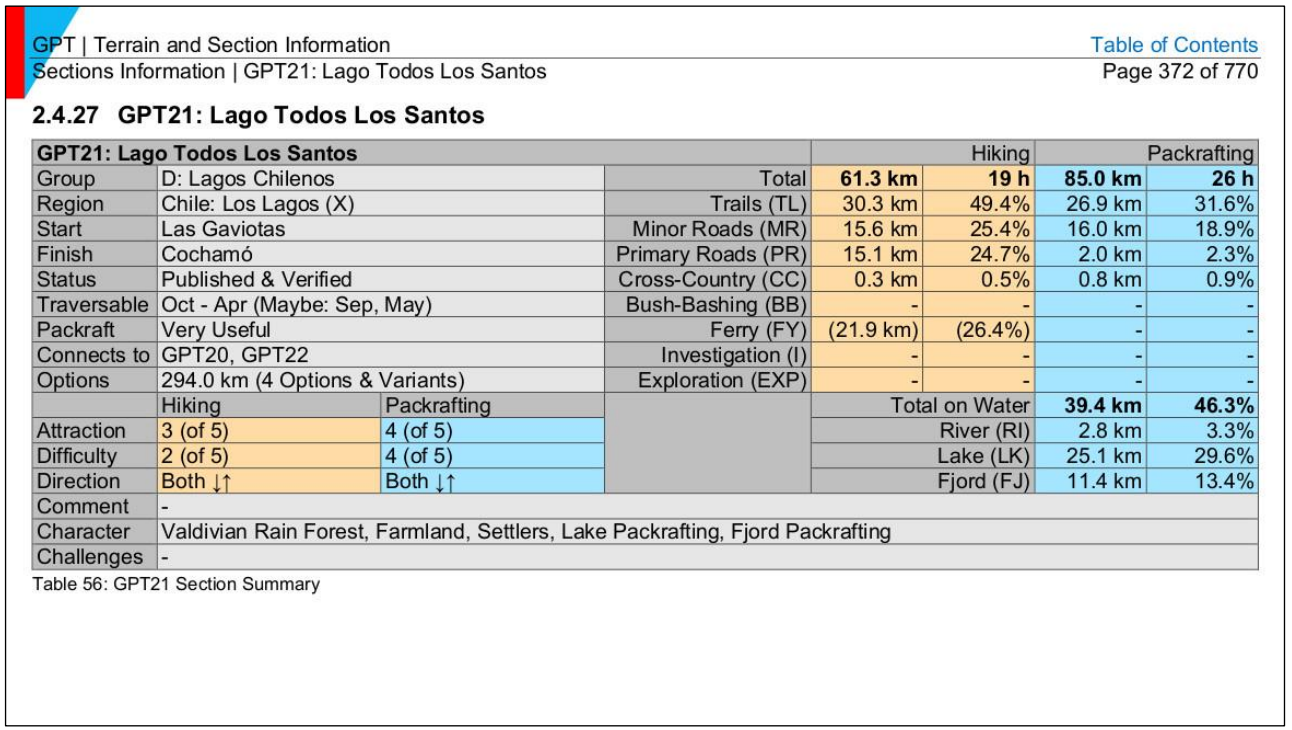
2.4 Section Documentation

2.4.1 Summary Table

Each section description starts with a summary table that condenses key information to this section on one page.

All distances and estimated hiking or moving times are based on the regular hiking route and the regular packrafting route. The distance travelled by ferry or boat is NOT included in the total distance.

The applied terminology is outlined in the table on the next page. Follow the blue links for a detailed description to each subject.



GPT | Terrain and Section Information
Table of Contents
Sections Information | GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos
Page 372 of 770

2.4.27 GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos

GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total	**61.3 km**	**19 h**	**85.0 km**	**26 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	30.3 km	49.4%	26.9 km	31.6%
Start	Las Gaviotas		Minor Roads (MR)	15.6 km	25.4%	16.0 km	18.9%
Finish	Cochamó		Primary Roads (PR)	15.1 km	24.7%	2.0 km	2.3%
Status	Published & Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	0.3 km	0.5%	0.8 km	0.9%
Traversable	Oct - Apr (Maybe: Sep, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	(21.9 km)	(26.4%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT20, GPT22		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	294.0 km (4 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**39.4 km**	**46.3%**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		2.8 km	3.3%
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		25.1 km	29.6%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		11.4 km	13.4%
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 56: GPT21 Section Summary

Picture 351: Section Summary Table

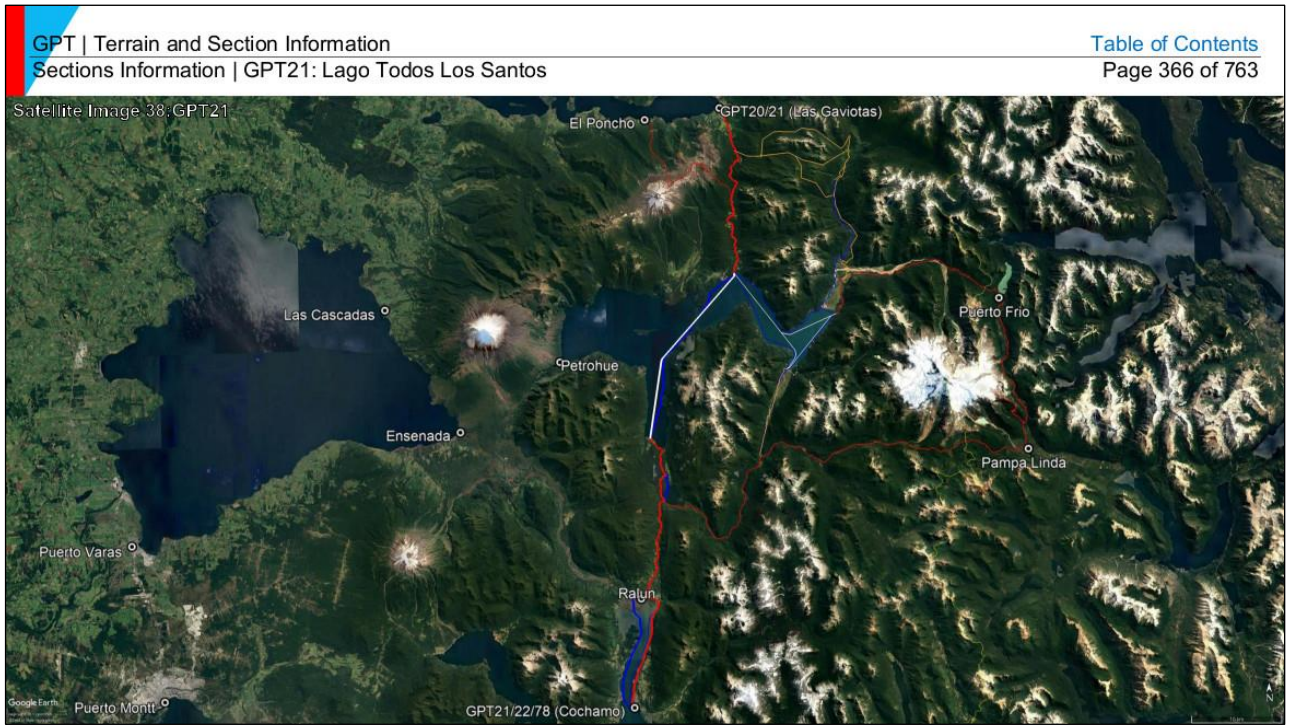
GPT00: Section Name				Hiking	Packrafting
Group	See Section Groups on page 531		Total	Hiking and packrafting distance and time	
Region	Region in Chile or Province in Argentina		Trails (TL)	See Horse or Hiking Trail on page 1124	
Start	Location Name of Regular Route Start Point		Minor Roads (MR)	See Minor Road on page 1127	
Finish	Location Name of Regular Route Finish Point		Primary Roads (PR)	See Primary and Paved Road on page 1128	
Status	See Planning Status on page 353		Cross-Country (CC)	See Cross Country on page 1126	
Traversable	See Travel Timing on page 366		Bush-Bashing (BB)	See Bush Bashing on page 1129	
Packraft	Benefit of packrafting on this particular section		Ferry (FY)	See Ferry or Boat Transfer on page 1130	
Connects to	Adjacent sections with a direct connection		Investigation (I)	See Investigation Route on page 1137	
Options	Number and distance of all options & variants		Exploration (EXP)	See Exploration Route on page 1122	
	Hiking	Packrafting	Total on Water	Packrafting distance and time	
Attraction	See Section Attractiveness and Difficulty Rating on page 377		River (RI)	See River Packrafting on page 1131	
Difficulty			Lake (LK)	See Lake Packrafting on page 1131	
Direction	See Travel Direction on page 370		Fjord (FJ)	See Fjord Packrafting on page 1134	
Comments	Comments to travel direction of hiking and packrafting route				
Character	Predominant landscape types, cultures and features that shape the character of this particular section				
Challenges	Aspects that pose challenges and obstacles on this particular section				

Table 41: Section Summary Table Terminology

2.4.2 Satellite Image Map

The satellite image map displays all regular and optional tracks of one section only. No tracks of adjacent sections are included. This visualizes what options belong to this section but may lead to the incorrect impression that many options end in the “middle of nowhere”. Therefore, review the satellite image maps of adjacent sections to better understand alternative connections between adjacent sections and don’t get discouraged by seemingly death end routes.

The satellite image maps contain also selected location designations, like resupply locations, the start and finish point of the regular route and relevant location designation along the routes.

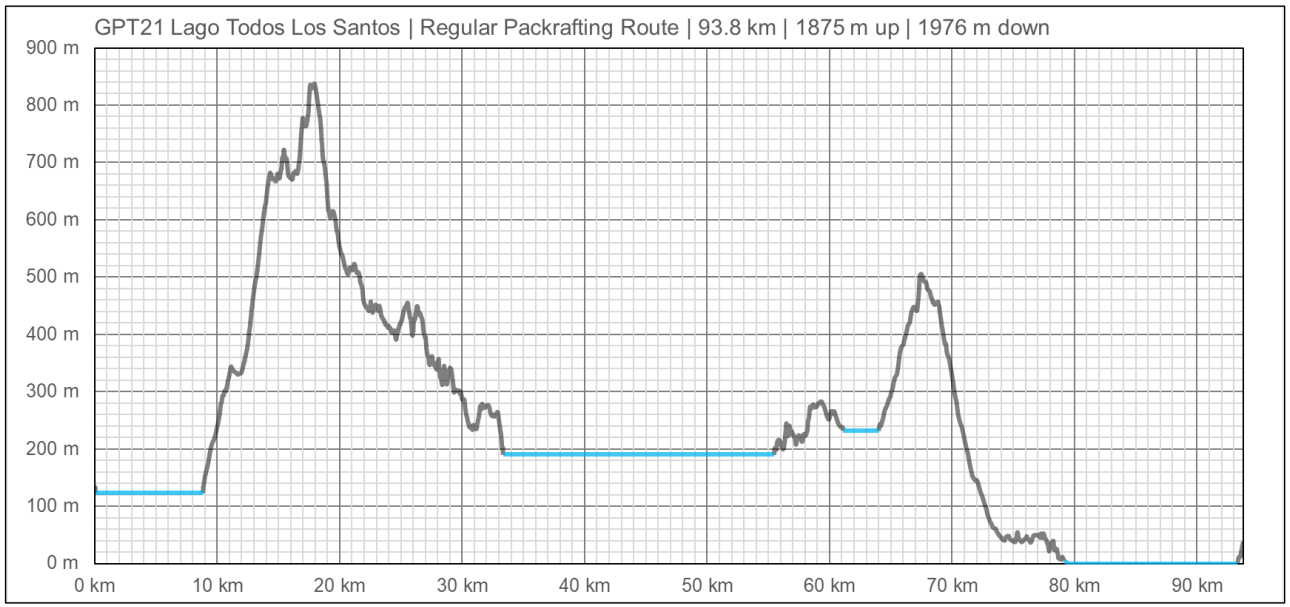


Picture 352: Section Satellite Image Map

The meaning of the line colors are summarized in Table 14 Satellite Image Line Codes on page 351 and described in more detail in chapter 3.3.5 Track File Display in Google Earth and on GPS on page 1145.

2.4.3 Elevation Profile

After the satellite image map follows the elevation profile of the regular route. For sections with distinct hiking and packrafting routes two elevation profiles are displayed. The first one applies to the regular hiking route and the second elevation profile shows to up and down of the entire regular packrafting route (including all segments that are in common with the regular hiking route). On sections with little packrafting these two elevation profiles appear quite similar.



Picture 353: Section Elevation Profile

The blue segments in the elevation profiles indicate travelling on water. In the hiking elevation profiles this is always a ride on a ferry or a motorboat. In the packrafting charts a blue line means normally paddling on rivers, lakes or fjords and only in some cases a ferry.

The section distance, the ascent and the descent are displayed above the elevation profile.

2.4.4 Planned Additions to Section Documentation in the Hikers Manual

The following information is planned to be added to the section documentation in the Hikers Manual. By now (April 2022), this information is only added to one section (GPT33H: Torres de Avellano) to test and showcase this objective.

- Packrafting Water Bodies
- General Remarks
- Section Planning Status
- Section Attractions
- Section Difficulties
- Recommended Travel Period
- Benefits of Hiking and Packrafting
- Recommended Travel Direction
- Section Length and Travel Duration
- Suitable Section Combinations
- Resupply
  - Resupply Towns
  - Resupply on the Trail

- Access to Route and Return
  - Access to Start
  - Return from Finish
  - Escape Options
- Permits, Entry Fees and Right-of-Way Issues
- Regular Route
  - Regular Hiking Route
  - Regular Packrafting Route
- Optional Routes
- Investigations and Explorations
- Links to other Resources

To collect and update this information from many hikers the Wikiexplora Section Articles were setup. These are described in the following chapter.

2.4.5 Contributing to the Wikiexplora Section Article

The GPT is not a public trail and no agency or foundation cares for this project. So, no official body provides any information and updates to the GPT. And since the first publication in 2014 the GPT route network has grown from 1’500 km to more than 20’000 km in 2021. Therefore, a single author cannot collect and update all relevant information to this immense network. For this reason, it became the task of the hikers’ community to collaborate in the publication of the GPT.

Issuing and updating the section documentation is the most relevant task in which all hikers shall participate. Hikers that just traversed a section have visited the nearby resupply locations, arranged their transport to the trail and just experienced the current route condition. This makes these hikers the perfect consultants for all other hikers that follow. To enable such a collaboration one Wikiexplora article was created for each section in 2019. Starting with season 2019/20 the feedbacks and contributions from all hikers are collected primarily in these wikies. These wiki permit each hiker to add information to the section documentation and to edit previously published content if changes occurred. Therefore, signing up on Wikiexplora and providing feedback on Wikiexplora is now a condition for getting access and using the track files.

As a minimum all hikers and packrafters should:

- **Provide a summary, alerts, and suggestions on Wikiexplora under “**Section Logs, Alerts and Suggestions” as soon as feasible. This section log entry should contain:

  - your **section start and finish dates** (the actual date when you started walking on this section and when you finished),
  - your **names** (or alias or your Wikiexplora username if you prefer more privacy),

- your **hiking direction** (southbound or northbound),
- describe your **chosen route** (i.e. hiking or packrafting route), the used options (if not following the entire regular route) and combinations with other sections (if you combined several sections without resupplying off the trail),
- your **hiking duration** (how many days it took from the section start to the finish, without rest days and waiting time),
- and your **personal perception of the section attractiveness, difficulty and comments** that you consider beneficial.
- Describe and explain your **alerts and suggestions** in detail.

Collecting such log entries from all GPT hikers is important to update in example the Section Travel Timing Recommendation and the Section Attractiveness and Difficulty Rating that incorporates multiple personal perceptions over various seasons. The actual hiking durations in days helps other hikers to better plan provisions and timing. The intention is NOT a performance comparison.

Very important are alerts and suggestions. Hikers that encountered obstacles that turned them around or complicated the hike, should describe these obstacles in detail on Wikiexplora in the corresponding section article. Such an obstacle might be an impassable trail section, a river that was unsafe to ford, a bridge that was flushed away or an unpleasant right-of-way dispute. Hikers are asked to publish such alerts as soon as feasible to warn other hikers. If possible, suggestions should be included how to best deal with these obstacles.

Share also positive surprises, in example a settler that received you very well, or a useful route variation that is either more scenic, safer or a convenient short cut. Basically, whenever you say to yourself: “I should have known this before!” then speak

to your peers by writing to them on Wikiexplora.

When updating the Wikiexplora Section Article don't worry too much about formatting and spelling; this can be corrected later. Just add the information that serves others.

In addition, all hikers and packrafters are welcome to:

- Submit a Facebook post in the Facebook GPT group in particular if the Wikiexplora update contains alerts and important new information. This Facebook post should start with the section number i.e. "GPT23" and summarize or duplicate the update on Wikiexplora. A link to the updated article on Wikiexplora should also be included in the Facebook post. Add images in the Facebook post as you wish.

- After returning from the hike, all "veterans" are welcome to edit the Wikiexplora Section Articles by reviewing all feedbacks, researching missing information and incorporating all this into one well readable consistent section description. If there are contradicting perceptions don't eliminate a deviating perception but try to summarize the different experiences. Do this primarily for sections that you hiked or packrafted yourself. This editing is best done with a proper computer and not on a smart phone.

When referencing to specific geographic location in Wikiexplora or on Facebook then:

- Use the waypoint name in example Settler {33H} [85.0/462] (Luis Diaz) or just the Kilometer counter in example “the settler Luis Diaz at Kilometer 85.0”

- If the referenced geographic location is not a pre-defined waypoint (yet), then use the following format: -46.4621, -72.2711 with the latitude first (degree south) and the longitude second (degree west). Use negative values (the GPT is in the south-western hemisphere). Four digits are optimal (this corresponds to a 10 m accuracy). This format allows to copy and paste the number combination into Google Earth and the correct location is shown.

Further instructions how to edit an article on Wikiexplora are in the table below and in chapter 3.4 Wikiexplora Editor on page 1161.

I’m planning to incorporate this collaborative created content in the coming years into this Hikers’ Manual but the authorship of the section description is now in the hands of the hikers’ community.

2.4.6 Wikiexplora Section Article Structure and Content

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
1	Section Logs, Alerts and Suggestions	This chapter exists on Wikiexplora only and is not intended to be transferred into the Hikers' Manual. **It's the online section "guest book" and "notice board".** All hikers and packrafters that received the track files committed to provide these section logs entries on Wikiexplora. Place new entries always on top of the list right under the header and above the last entry. This places the most recent log on top of the list. **Start a log entry with a star (*), followed by:** ***** Section **start date and finish date** (use format YYYY-MMM-DD) **/ Names** or alias / Travel **direction** (southbound or northbound) / Chosen **route and/or options** (regular hiking or packrafting route and/or Option 1, 2, 3, …) **/** Travel **duration** (without rest days and waiting time) **Alerts and suggestions** explained in detail **Personal perception** of attractiveness and difficulties **Remarks to route** that are considered useful for other hikers

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
1	Section Logs, Alerts and Suggestions	Example of new Wikiexplora entry in violet (don't edit the instruction text in Wikiexplora that here shown in grey) ==Section Log, Alerts and Suggestions==

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
1	Section Logs, Alerts and Suggestions	Exploring this Remote Valley was one of my favourite parts of the southern GPT. Since there were some days with heavy rain before I went, water levels were high. Many rapids class 2 let me enjoy the Rio Picacho a lot. Such a wild and mystic place! The first rapid of Lago Copa could be packrafted as well, the 3 other rapids I needed to bypass, which was VERY challenging, because I didn‘t bring a machete (stupid me). It took me 4 hours to bypass the second rapid of Lago copa (only 2,5 Kilometers!). Don’t ask how I managed to get through that dense Jungle, but there was also no way back. I looked very funny afterwards. The third Rapid on Lago copa is „easy“ to Bypass. Thanks to Tobias Hellwig, Ricardo Campos , Jen Ni and Meylin Elisabeth Ubilla González for cleaning up the last bypass from Lago Copa to Lago Escondido in 2019!! The Trail is still visible, only some parts are overgrown. I highly recommend to read there well written and detailed Report below.

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
1	Section Logs, Alerts and Suggestions	

Section Log, Alerts and Suggestions

- 2022-Jan-04 to 2022-Jan-06 / Tobias Schorcht / Northbound / Regular Packrafting Route from Picaflor to Puerto Cisnes / 2.5 days

Exploring this Remote Valley was one of my favourite parts of the southern GPT. Since there were some days with heavy rain before I went, water levels were high. Many rapids class 2 let me enjoy the Rio Picacho a lot. Such a wild and mystic place! The first rapid of Lago Copa could be packrafted as well, the 3 other rapids I needed to bypass, which was VERY challenging, because I didn‘t bring a machete (stupid me). It took me 4 hours to bypass the second rapid of Lago copa (only 2,5 Kilometers!). Don’t ask how I managed to get through that dense Jungle, but there was also no way back. I looked very funny afterwards.

The third Rapid on Lago copa is „easy“ to Bypass. Thanks to Tobias Hellwig, Ricardo Campos , Jen Ni and Meylin Elisabeth Ubilla González for cleaning up the last bypass from Lago Copa to Lago Escondido in 2019!! The Trail is still visible, only some parts are overgrown. I highly recommend to read there well written and detailed Report below.

- 2020-Jan-28 to 2020-Jan-29 / Southbound / Regular Packrafting Route from Picaflor to Puente Mañihuales / 3.5 days

From the crossing “Picaflor” on the Carratera Austral, follow the dirt road and Rio Picaflor for roughly 11km until you meet Rio Mañihuales.

I wanted to put in further upstream on Rio Picaflor, which is a pretty-looking small river, but there are too many fallen trees accross the water and it didn't seem to be worth the effort. The Upper Mañihuales, then, is a narrow, shallow, slow-moving river. Some parts are

Picture 354: Wikiexplora section article display on a smartphone screen

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
2	Summary Table	This information is transferred from Hikers' Manual to Wikiexplora. Editing these topics is normally not required. Only obvious error should be corrected, and the author of the Hikers' Manual should be notified.
3	Satellite Image Map	
4	Elevation Profile	
5	General Remarks	Introducing comments in example to the history of the area and the route.
6	Section Planning Status	Remarks by the author of the GPT to how thoroughly the regular route and selected options have been verified and recorded and what uncertainties are remaining.
7	Section Attractiveness	**All hikers and packrafters** are welcome to share their personal perception by updating the description of the section character, listing highlights, challenges, and annoyances. All guests that travelled the section are also invited to suggest a "uprating" or "downrating" of the attractiveness and difficulty.
8	Section Difficulty	
9	Recommended Travel Period	**All hikers and packrafters** are asked to share their trail experience if traversing a section relatively early or late in the season. When suggesting a change of the recommended travel period please describe the encountered conditions in detail and note the date and route of the traverse (regular route or options). Due to variable conditions from year to year three classifications are used: **Not Recommended**: Normally unfavorable conditions make a traverse unadvisable. **Conditionally**: In some years a traverse is feasible if conditions are favorable. **Normally Feasible**: A traverse is normally feasible. See Table 19 Section Travel Timing Categories in chapter 2.2.6 Travel Timing starting on page 366 to this topic.

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
10	Benefits of Hiking and Packrafting	**All hikers and packrafters** are asked to share their trail experience if the personal perception deviates from the currently published recommendation. Please explain suggested changes in detail.
11	Recommended Travel Direction	
12	Section Length and Travel Duration	**All hikers and packrafters** are asked to share their trail experience if they required substantially more or less time than currently suggested. Explain in detail what delayed or facilitated the traverse and outline the used route (regular route or options).
13	Suitable Section Combinations	A section combination is a traverse of multiple sections without resupplying off the trail. This can be beneficial on sections that do not end at a resupply town but require significant time for a motorized transport from the section end to a resupply town. **All hikers and packrafters** are welcome to share their trail experience by updating the evaluation of the suggested section combinations or adding further beneficial section combinations that are not proposed yet.

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
14	Resupply	**All hikers and packrafters** are asked to contribute to the description of resupply towns by documenting relevant shops and services such as: **Shopping** ▪ Food (location and description of supermarkets and food shops) ▪ Gas (gas canisters for camping stoves) ▪ Equipment (shops that offer outdoor gear and hiking shoes or clothing) **Services** ▪ Restaurants (note type of food and prince category) ▪ Laundry Services (record location and price) ▪ Money Services (Cash machines like ATM's and currency exchange offices) **Accommodation** ▪ Accommodations and Camping (document location, contact details and price) **Transport** ▪ Ground Transport (bus terminals and private transport like *flete*) ▪ Ferries (Ferry ticket sales points and location of ferry terminals) ▪ Shipping Services (*ecomiendas* like Starken or ChileExpress) Apply the following principle: What was useful for you will be useful for others and deserves to be published. Praise what was good; comment what disappointed. To avoid duplicates each resupply town should be documented only in one section article. Other section articles should link to this resupply location only.
14.1	Resupply Towns	

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
14.2	Resupply on the Trail	Along some routes you may purchase food and meals from *arrieros* and settlers. This might be fresh eggs, bread, cheese or even goat or lamb meat. In rare cases you may also get offered a proper bed under a sheltering roof. See chapter 1.8.15 Resupply Infrastructure on page 117 and Table 5: Appropriate prices for food and services in remote locations on page 143. **All hikers and packrafters**: If you purchased food or accommodation from the locals along the trail then please honour their effort by recording the location, their names and the provided service on Wikiexplora.
15	Access to Route and Return	**All hikers and packrafters** are asked to share all available information that describe how to get from a resupply town to the trail and how to return. All options should be documented in this topic. This feedback is essential as such transport is often poorly documented by the transportation providers on the internet. Therefore, publish on Wikiexplora the name of the company or person, the route, the schedule and the price. Add also contact information when necessary and record the location of the terminal or service provider. Apply the following principle: What was useful for you will be useful for others and deserves to be published. Praise what was good; comment what disappointed you.
15.1	Access to Start	
15.2	Return from Finish	
15.3	Escape Options	Some sections can be left half-way by following an optional escape route. Such escape routes shall be described by **every hiker or packrafter** that used such an exit route.

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
16	Permits, Entry Fees and Right-of-Way Issues	The Greater Patagonian Trail is not a public trail and crosses frequently private properties. The majority of settlers welcome guests but occasionally, hikers may experience Right-of-Way issues. This route network also traverses national parks that charge entry fees or may require permits that must be arranged in advance. **All hikers and packrafters** are asked to share their trail experience to these subjects under this topic. Changes over time are expected therefore keeping these information updates remains a continuous effort.
17	Regular Route	**All hikers and packrafters** are asked to contribute to the description of the regular route. This description shall complement the GPS tracks and provide useful information that are not obviously evident from these tracks. So, this shall not be a description where to turn left or right but: ▪ help to anticipate the route condition, ▪ understand where pitching a tent is attractive and where camping is not feasible, ▪ warn others i.e. where drinking water might be scare or ▪ any other route information that you believe helps others. Use the track names, waypoint names, landmarks or specific geographic locations as reference in the description.
17.1	Regular Hiking Route	
17.2	Regular Packrafting Route	The description of the regular packrafting route shall not duplicate the entire route description but only these parts of the route where the regular packrafting route deviates from the regular hiking route.

Section Article		
Item	**Topic**	**Description**
18	Optional Routes	Optional routes should be described by **all hikers and packrafters** that followed these optional tracks. In addition, it should be outlined under what circumstances these options are more favorable than the regular route.
19	Investigations and Explorations	**All hikers and packrafters** that investigated unverified routes are requested to share their experience regardless if the traverse was successful or not. A full GPS record of a successful traverses combined with a proper description will transform such a exploration route into a verified option or even a rerouting of the regular route. But also comprehensible feedbacks of aborted exploration attempts are essential. This facilitates to recognize infeasible exploration suggestions that should be removed from the track files. When planning the traverse of an Investigation or Exploration route feel free to contact the author of the Hikers' Manual for further information.
20	Links to other Resources	In this topic references to blogs or other publications are collected that provide useful supplementary information to the specific section or region. **All hikers and packrafters** are welcome to add a link to their publication here.

Table 42: Section Article Topics

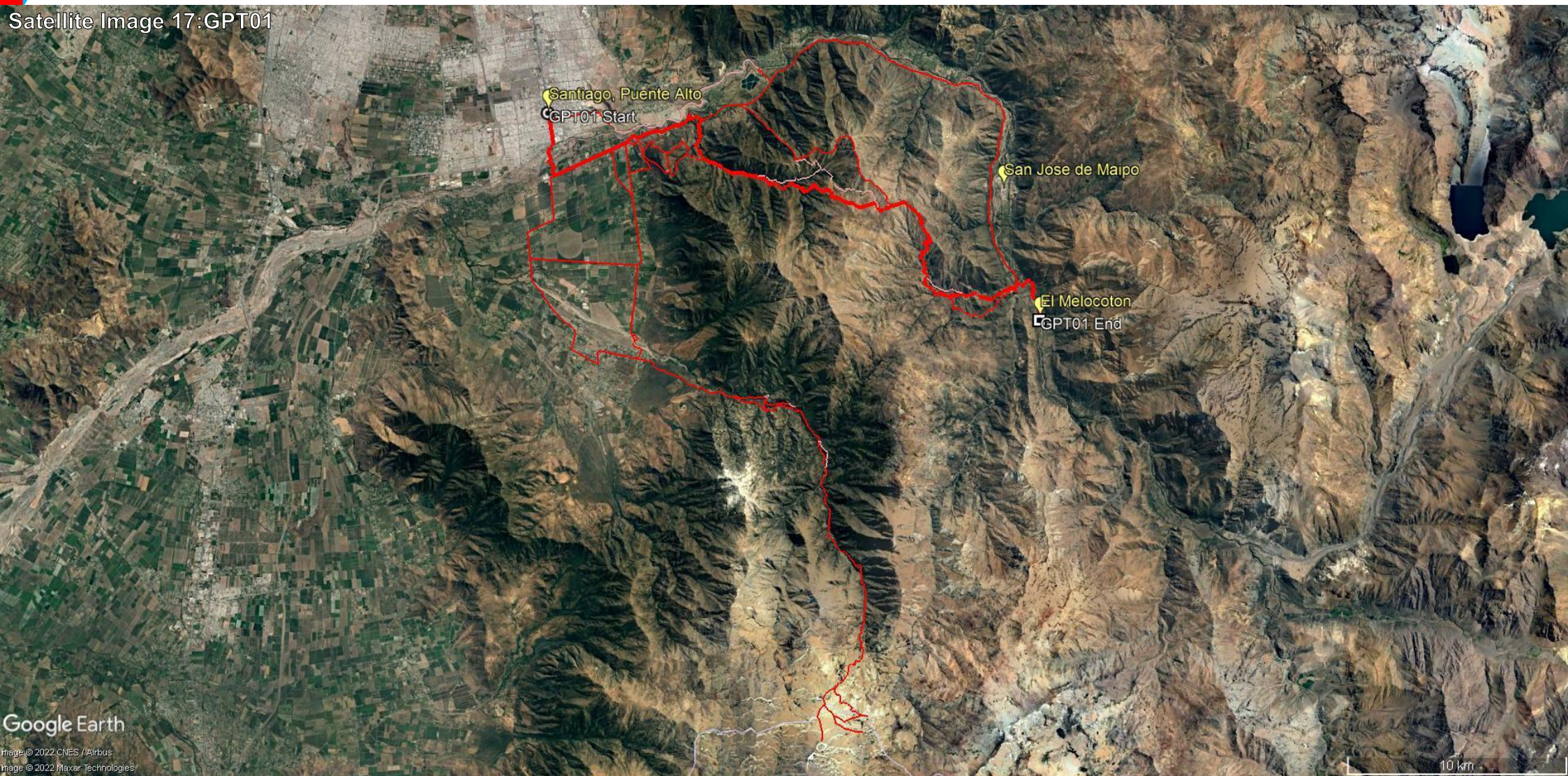
2.5 Sections (To be updated)

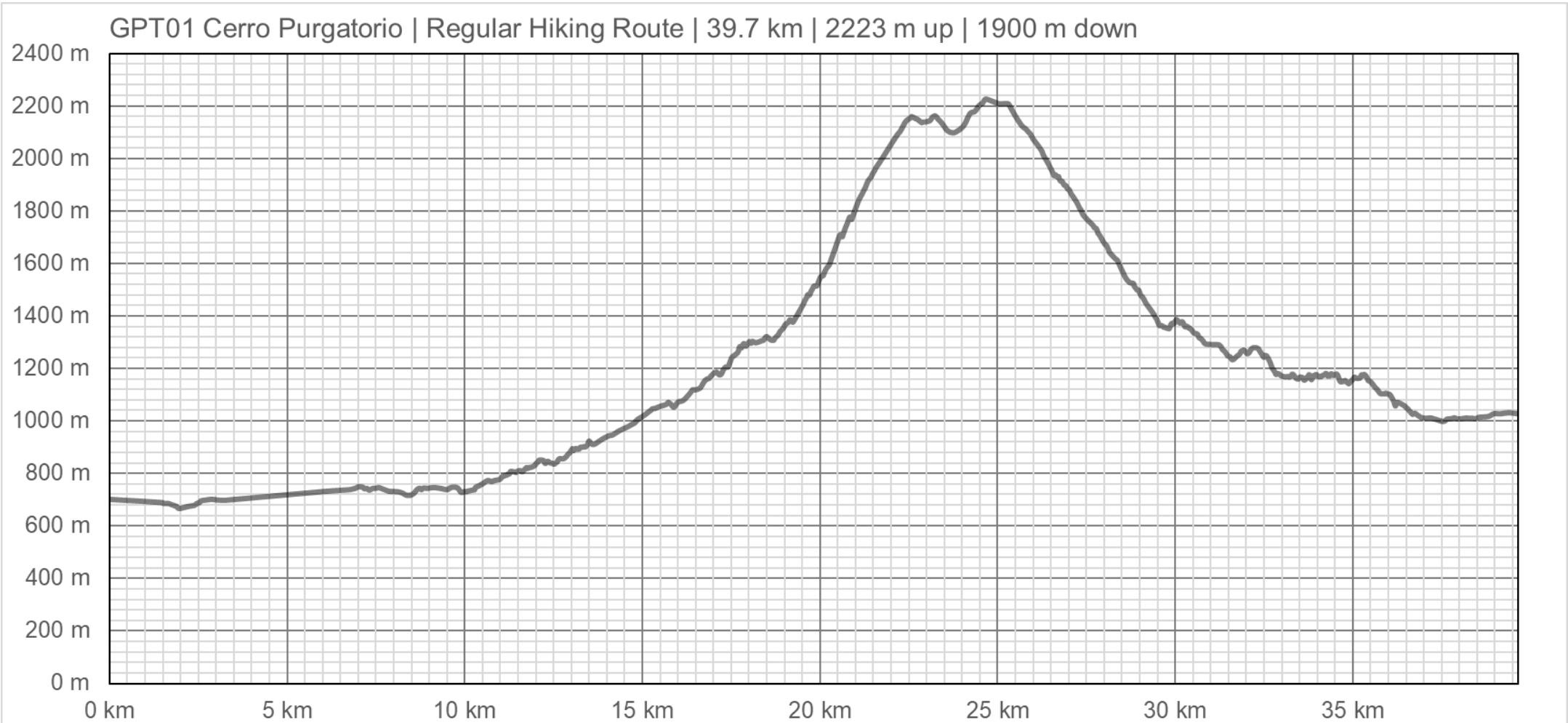
2.5.1 GPT01: Cerro Purgatorio

GPT01: Cerro Purgatorio					Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	A: Precordillera		Total	39.7 km	14 h	-	-
Region	Chile: Metropolitano (V)		Trails (TL)	3.7 km	9.2%	-	-
Start	Santiago (Metro Puente Alto)		Minor Roads (MR)	22.1 km	55.6%	-	-
Finish	El Melocotón		Primary Roads (PR)	13.9 km	35.1%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Oct - Apr (Maybe: Sep, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT02		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	153 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
Rating	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: A locked gate was installed at km 12 primarily to stop vehicles. / In summer possibly no reliable water source from km 11 to km 37.						
Character	Semi-Desert, Alpine Terrain, Farmland						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Lack of Drinking Water						

Table 43: GPT01 Section Summary

Satellite Image 17:GPT01





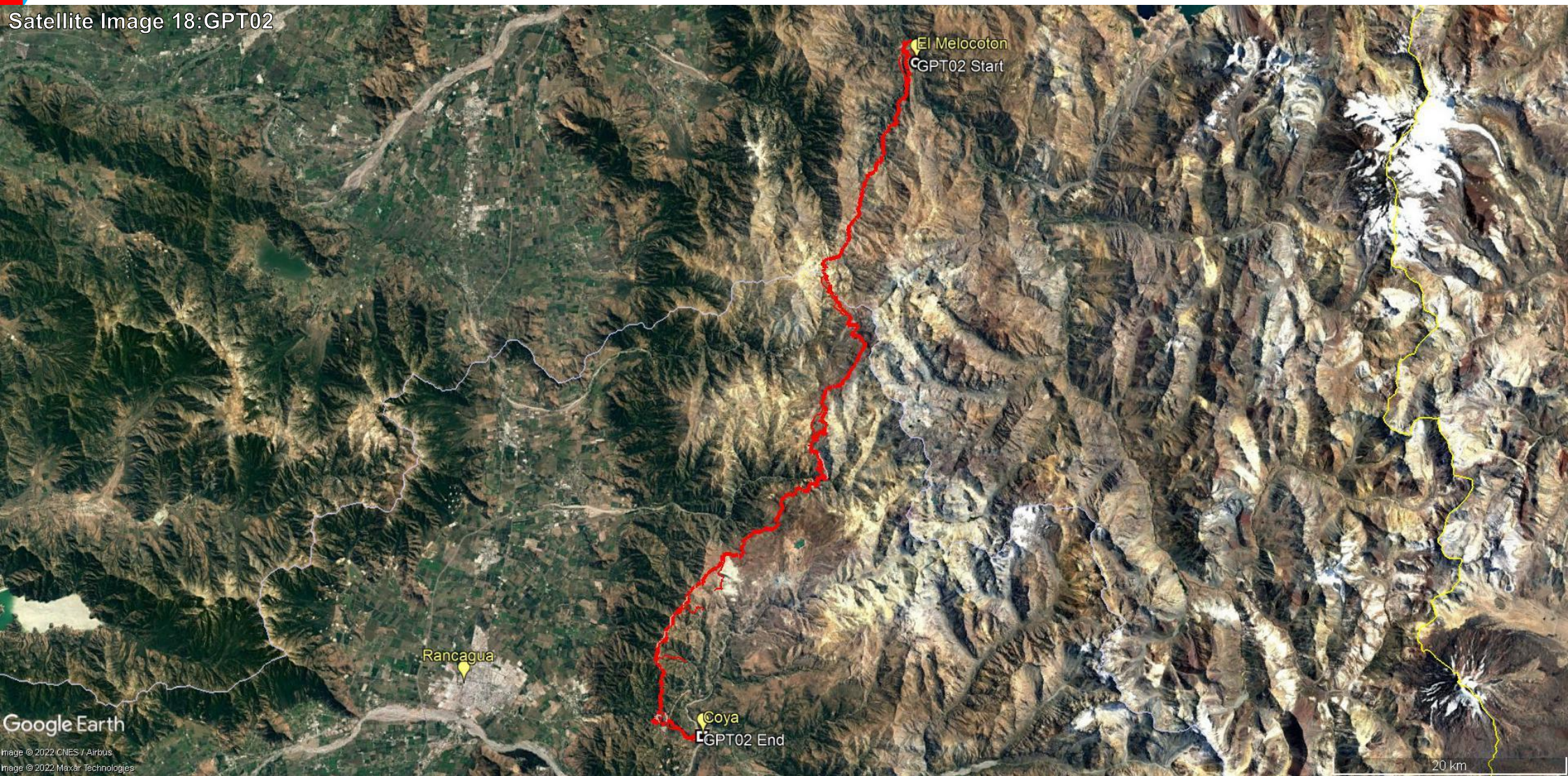
Elevation Profile 5: GPT01 Regular Route

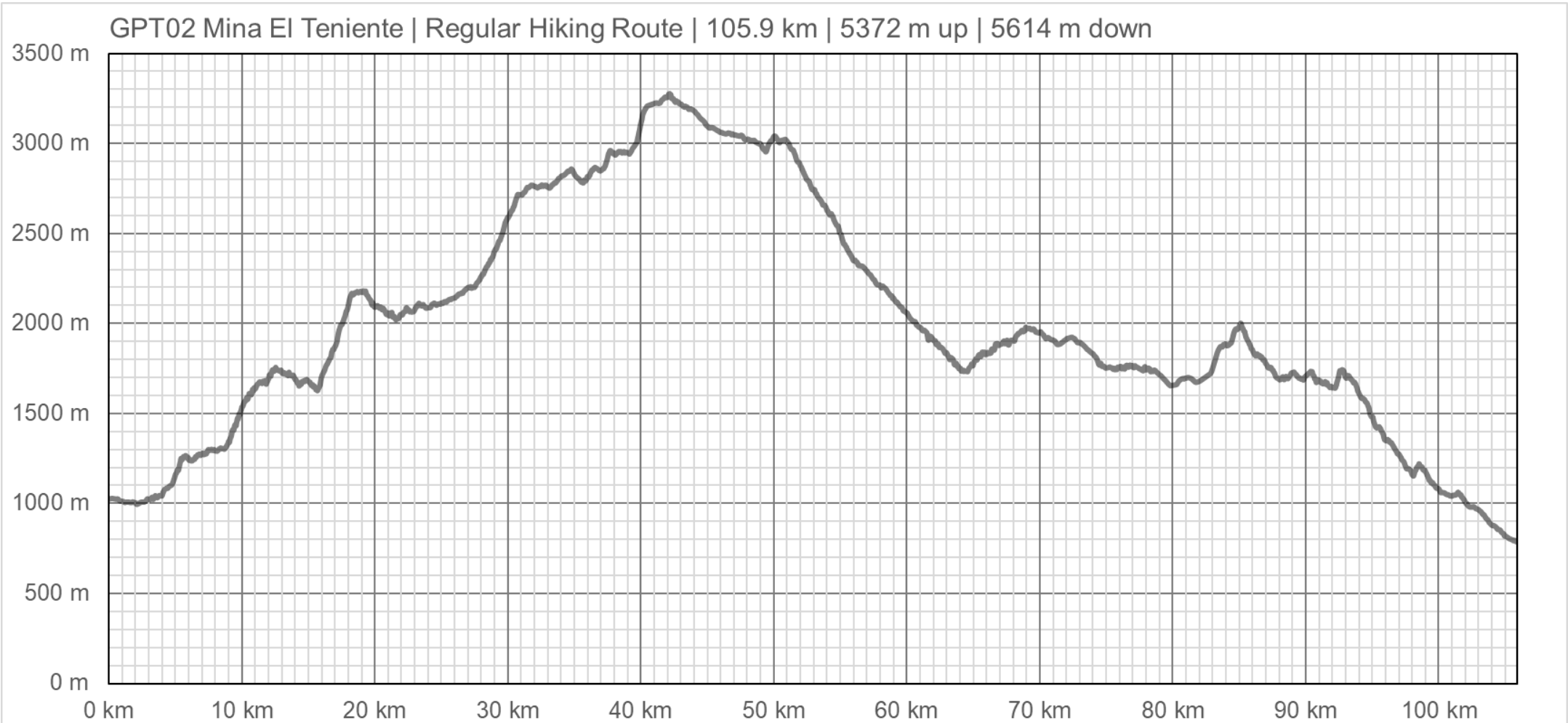
2.5.2 GPT02: Mina El Teniente

GPT02: Mina El Teniente							
Group	A: Precordillera			**105.9 km**		**-**	
Region	Chile: Metropolitano (V) & O'Higgins (VI)		Trails (TL)	50.2 km	47.4%	-	-
Start	El Melocotón		Minor Roads (MR)	44.3 km	41.9%	-	-
Finish	Coya		Primary Roads (PR)	4.6 km	4.3%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	5.9 km	5.6%	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Oct, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	0.8 km	0.8%	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT01, GPT03		Investigation (I)	(0.4 km)	(0.4%)	-	-
Options	41 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
Rating	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: In spring check the remaining snow cover on Sentinel Playground. / In summer this section becomes rather dry. Last reliable water at bridge at km 64 or puesto at km 73. / When entering mining facility hikers get escorted out to the main gate.						
Character	Semi-Desert, Alpine Terrain, Mountain Pastures, Mining, Arrieros						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Lack of Drinking Water, Resupply Distance, Right-of-Way Disputes						

Table 44: GPT02 Section Summary

Satellite Image 18:GPT02



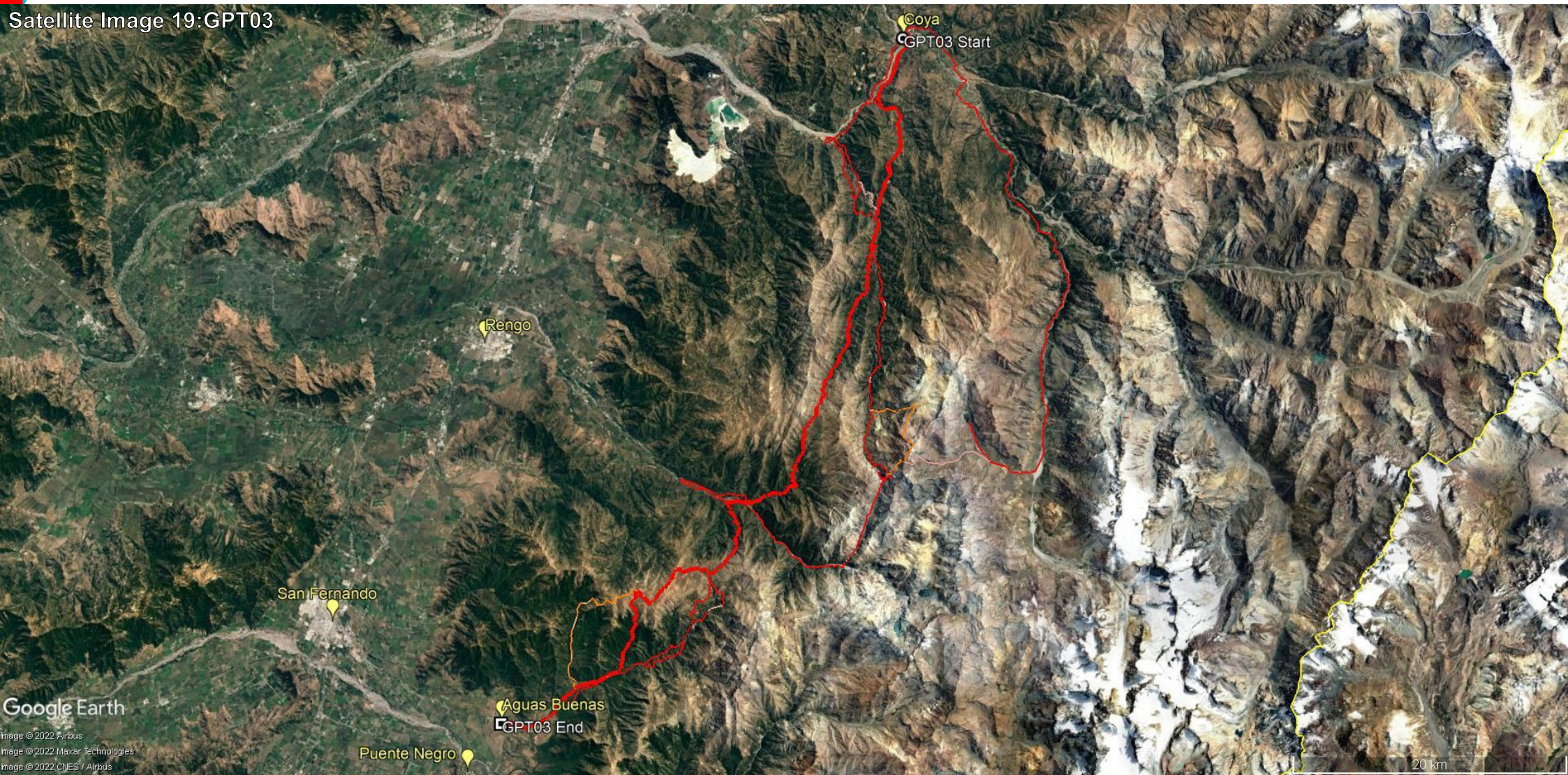


Elevation Profile 6: GPT02 Regular Route

2.5.3 GPT03: Ríos Claros

GPT03: Rios Claros				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	A: Precordillera		Total	**83.7 km**	**31 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: O'Higgins (VI)		Trails (TL)	70.3 km	84.0%	-	-
Start	Coya		Minor Roads (MR)	8.9 km	10.6%	-	-
Finish	Aguas Buenas		Primary Roads (PR)	1.0 km	1.2%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	2.7 km	3.2%	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	0.8 km	0.9%	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT02, GPT04		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	207 km (6 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: If river at km 48 not safely fordable take variant D detour to bridge.						
Character	Semi-Desert, Forest, Alpine Terrain, Mountain Pastures, Arrieros						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Bush Bashing						

Table 45: GPT03 Section Summary


Satellite Image 19:GPT03
Coya
GPT03 Start
Rengo
San Fernando
Aguas Buenas
GPT03 End
Puente Negro
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
20 km



Elevation Profile 7: GPT03 Regular Route

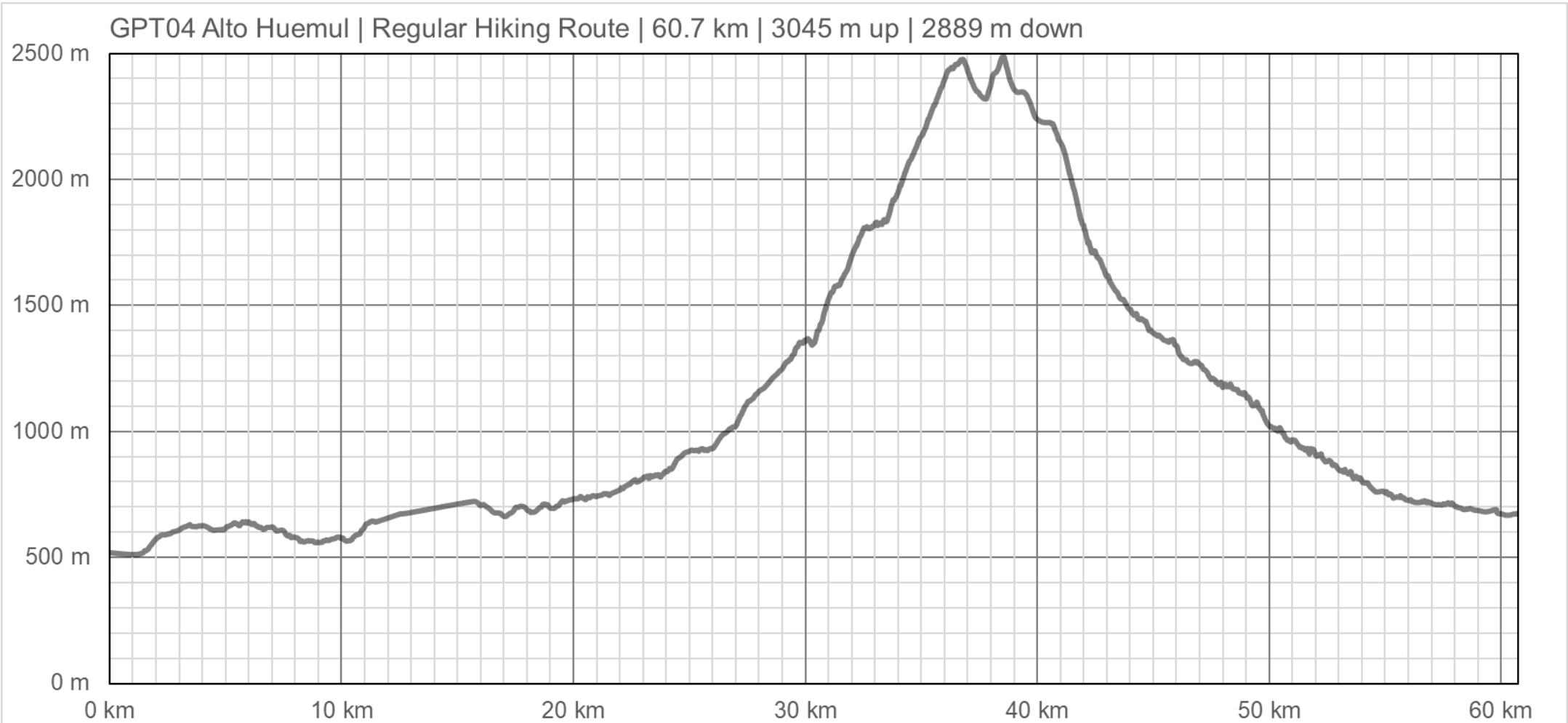
2.5.4 GPT04: Alto Huemul

GPT04: Alto Huemul				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	A: Precordillera		Total	**60.7 km**	**21 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: O'Higgins (VI) & Maule (VII)		Trails (TL)	30.8 km	50.7%	-	-
Start	Aguas Buenas		Minor Roads (MR)	26.7 km	43.9%	-	-
Finish	Los Queñes		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	3.3 km	5.4%	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT03, GPT05		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	98 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hikers may not be welcome in the exclusive community "Sierra de Belavista" therefore avoid Option 1.						
Character	Semi-Desert, Forest, Alpine Terrain, Mountain Pastures, Farmland, Arrieros						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Clambering						

Table 46: GPT04 Section Summary

Satellite Image 20:GPT04



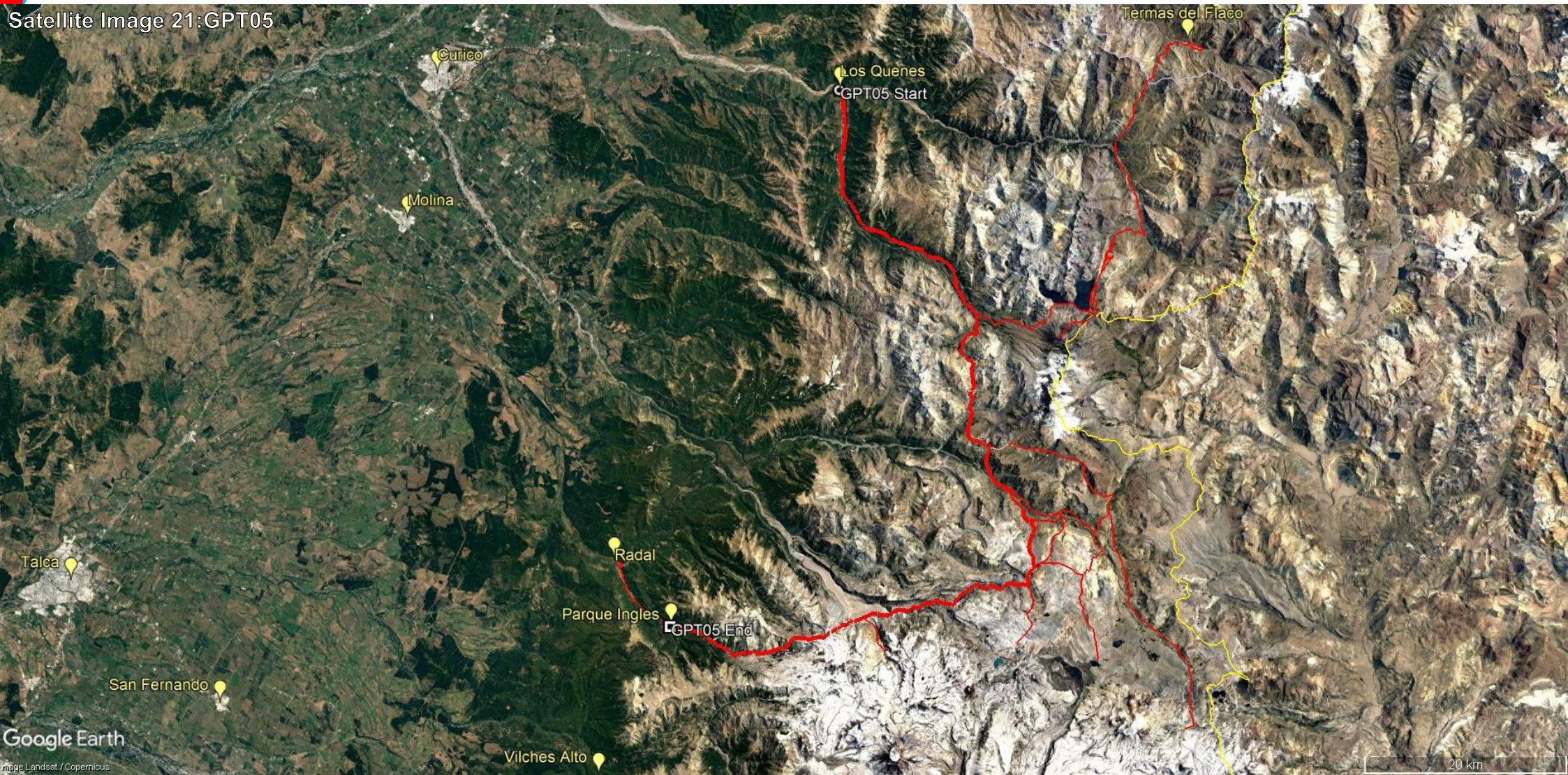


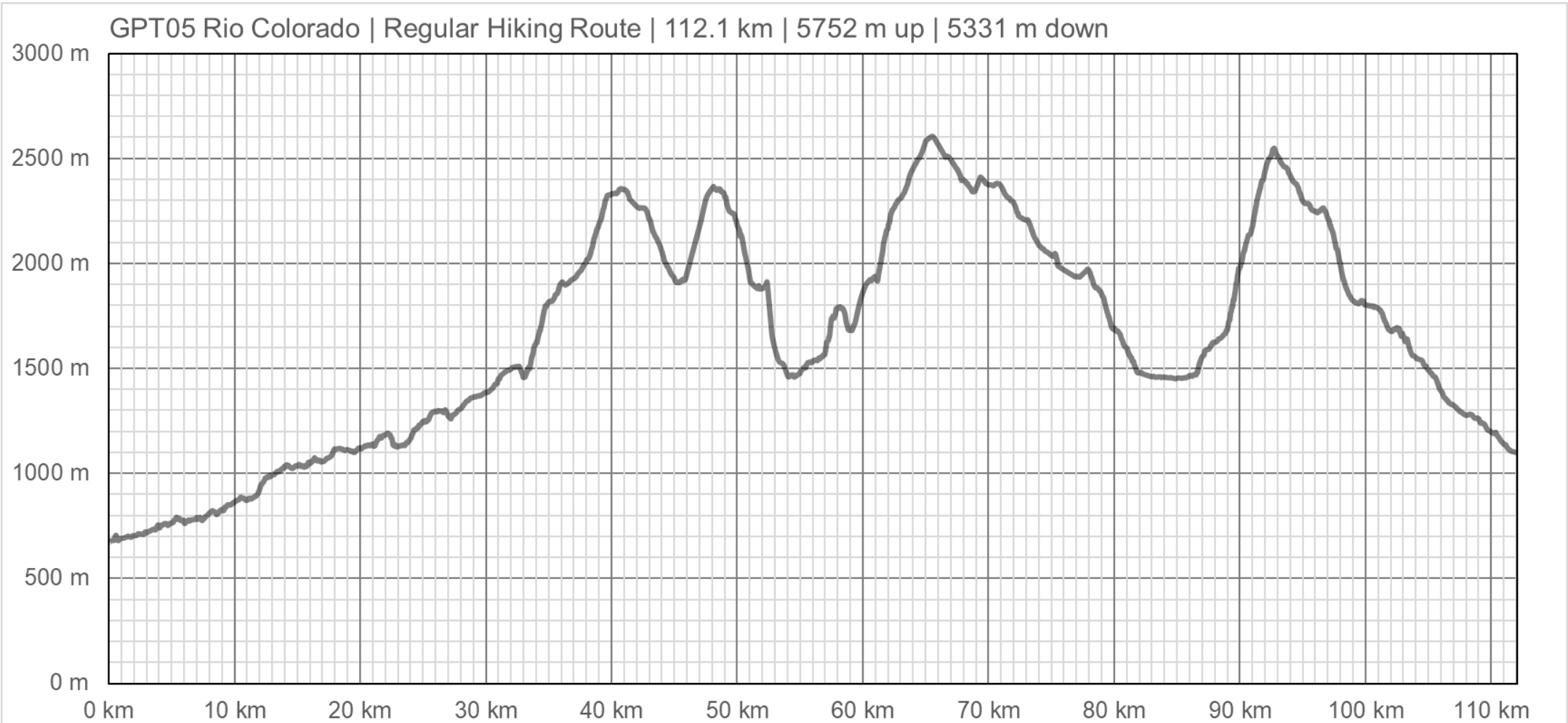
Elevation Profile 8: GPT04 Regular Route

2.5.5 GPT05: Río Colorado

GPT05: Rio Colorado				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	B: Zona Arrieros		Total	**112.1 km**	**40 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Maule (VII)		Trails (TL)	68.0 km	60.6%	-	-
Start	Los Queñes		Minor Roads (MR)	19.3 km	17.3%	-	-
Finish	Radal		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	24.8 km	22.1%	-	-
Traversable	(Maybe: Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT04, GPT06		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	195 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	6 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: The glacier fed river Rio Negro at km 51 may not be safely fordable during snow melt and hot summers. / Bridge over Rio Colorado (Puente Las Yeguas) is often destroyed in spring. Check recent reports on Wikiexplora and ask locals. If unsafe to cross take variant C and D that results in a 1 to 2-day detour.						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Mountain Pastures, Arrieros, Unpeopled Areas						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable, Right-of-Way Disputes						

Table 47: GPT05 Section Summary


Satellite Image 21:GPT05
Curico
Molina
Los Quenes
GPT05 Start
Termas del Flaco
Talca
Radal
Parque Ingles
GPT05 End
San Fernando
Vilches Alto
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
20 km



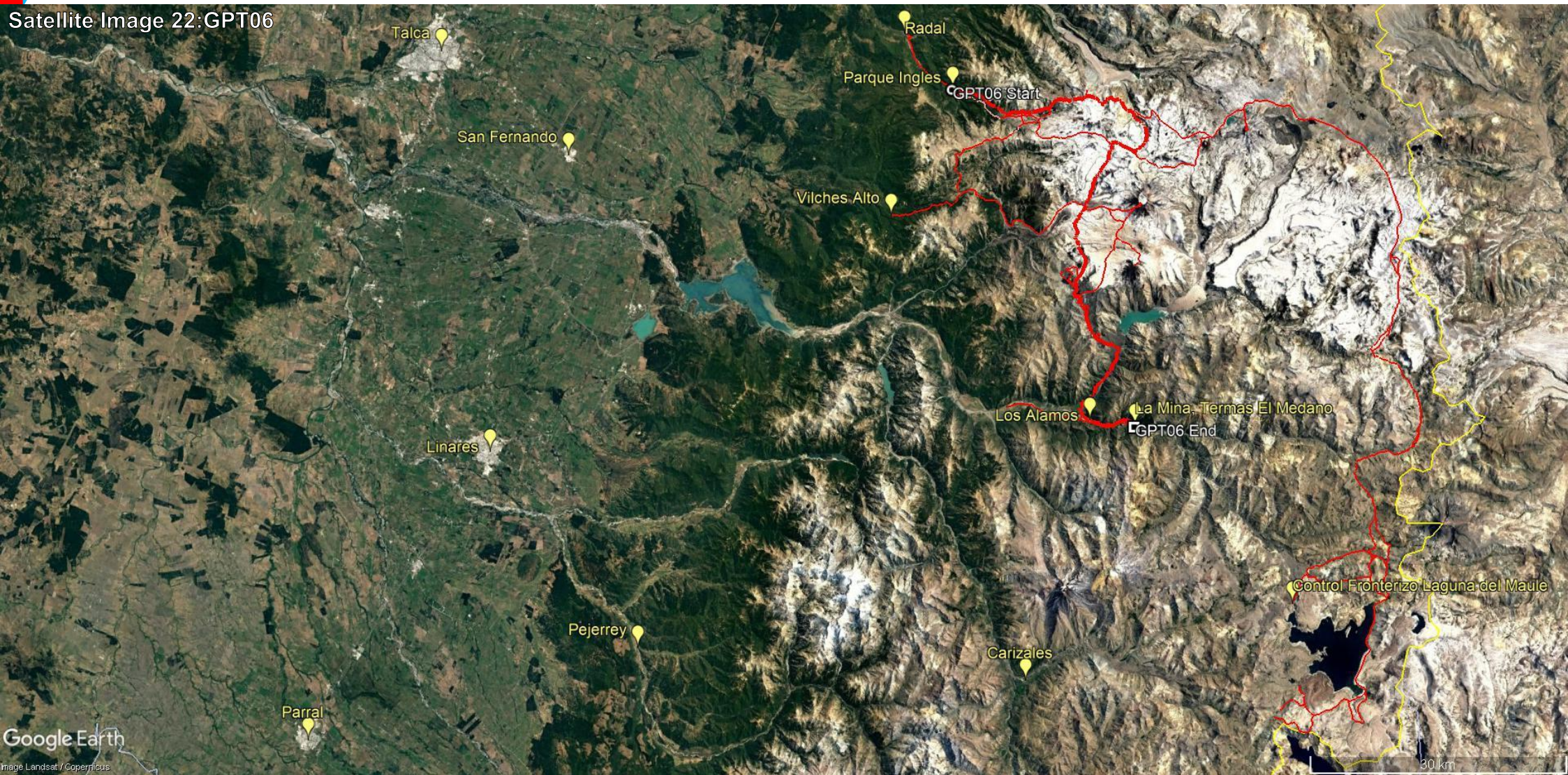
Elevation Profile 9: GPT05 Regular Route

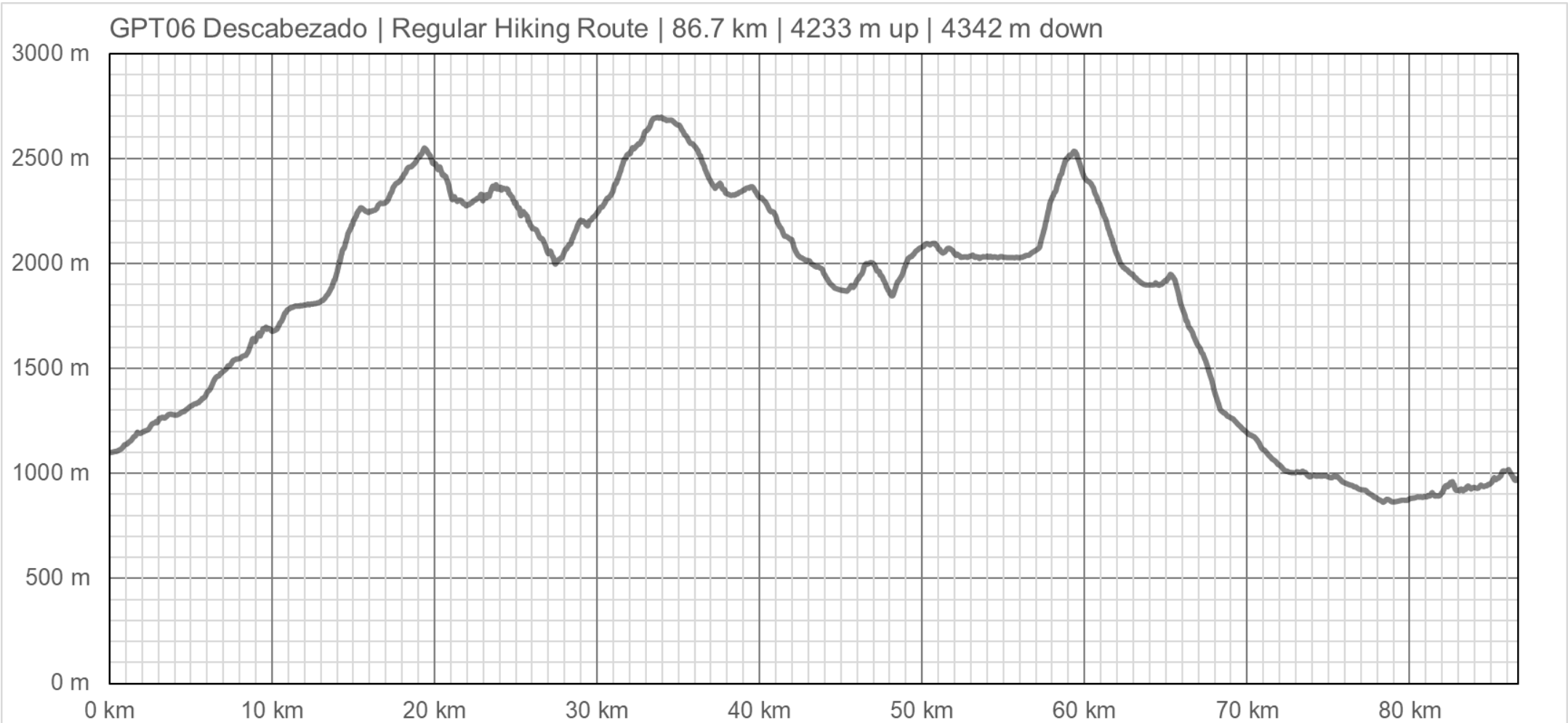
2.5.6 GPT06: Volcán Descabezado

GPT06: Descabezado				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	B: Zona Arrieros		Total	**86.7 km**	**30 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Maule (VII)		Trails (TL)	72.3 km	83.4%	-	-
Start	Radal		Minor Roads (MR)	14.4 km	16.6%	-	-
Finish	La Mina (Termas del Médano)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT05, GPT07		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	373 km (7 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: For northbound entry into Central Hidroeléctrica Cipreses a permit must be prearranged that is not given to solo hikers. Try email rene.gallardo@enel.com or call +56712247090. For southbound exit no such permit is essential. Packrafting: ↑ Permit required						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Hot Springs, Mountain Pastures, Arrieros, Partly Overrun						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Right-of-Way Disputes						

Table 48: GPT06 Section Summary

Satellite Image 22:GPT06





Elevation Profile 10: GPT06 Regular Route



Lake: Laguna del Maule	
Part	-
Section	GPT06
Size	10 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Ample
Travel Direction	Sightseeing
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

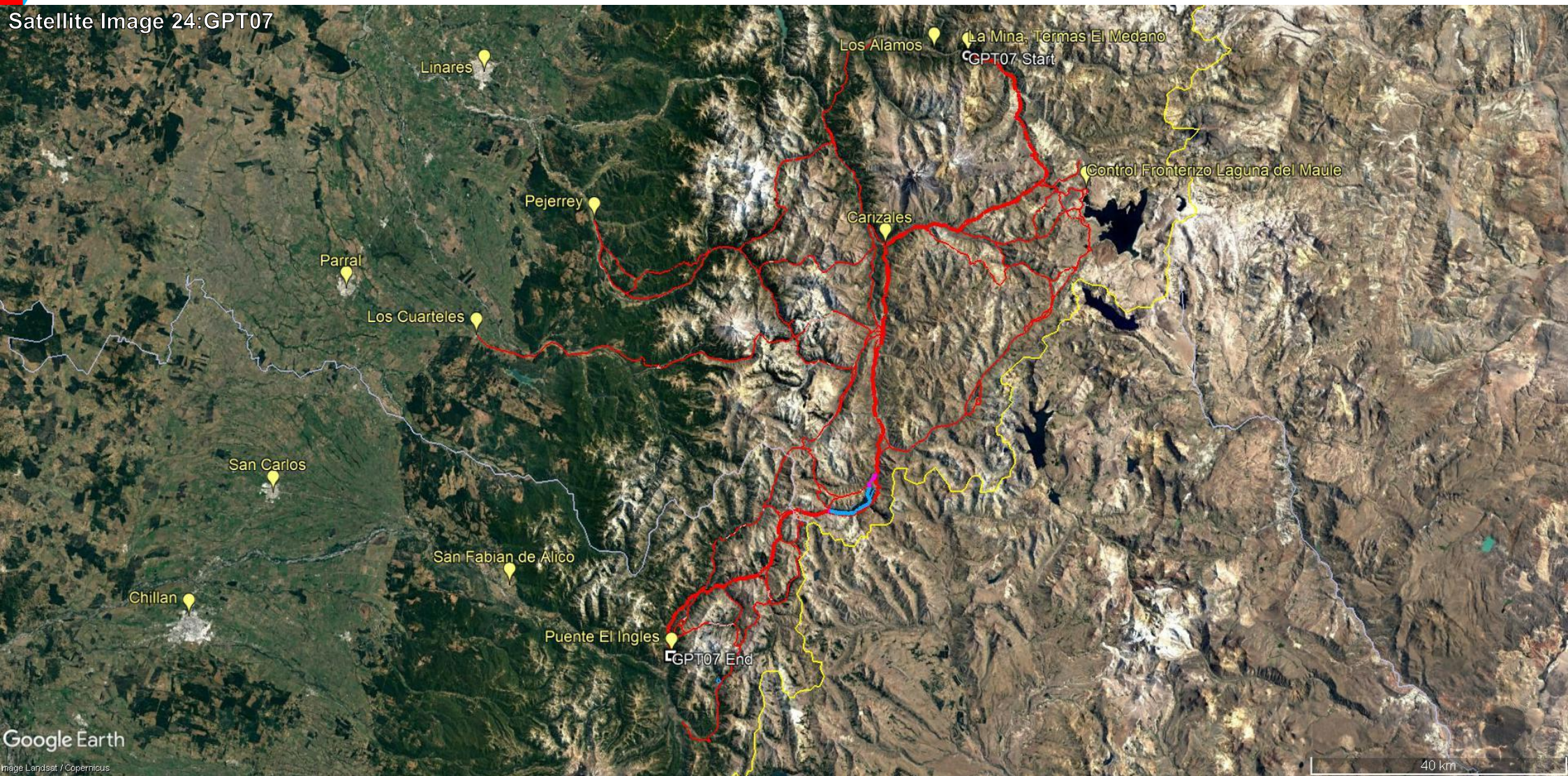
Table 49: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.

2.5.7 GPT07: Laguna Dial

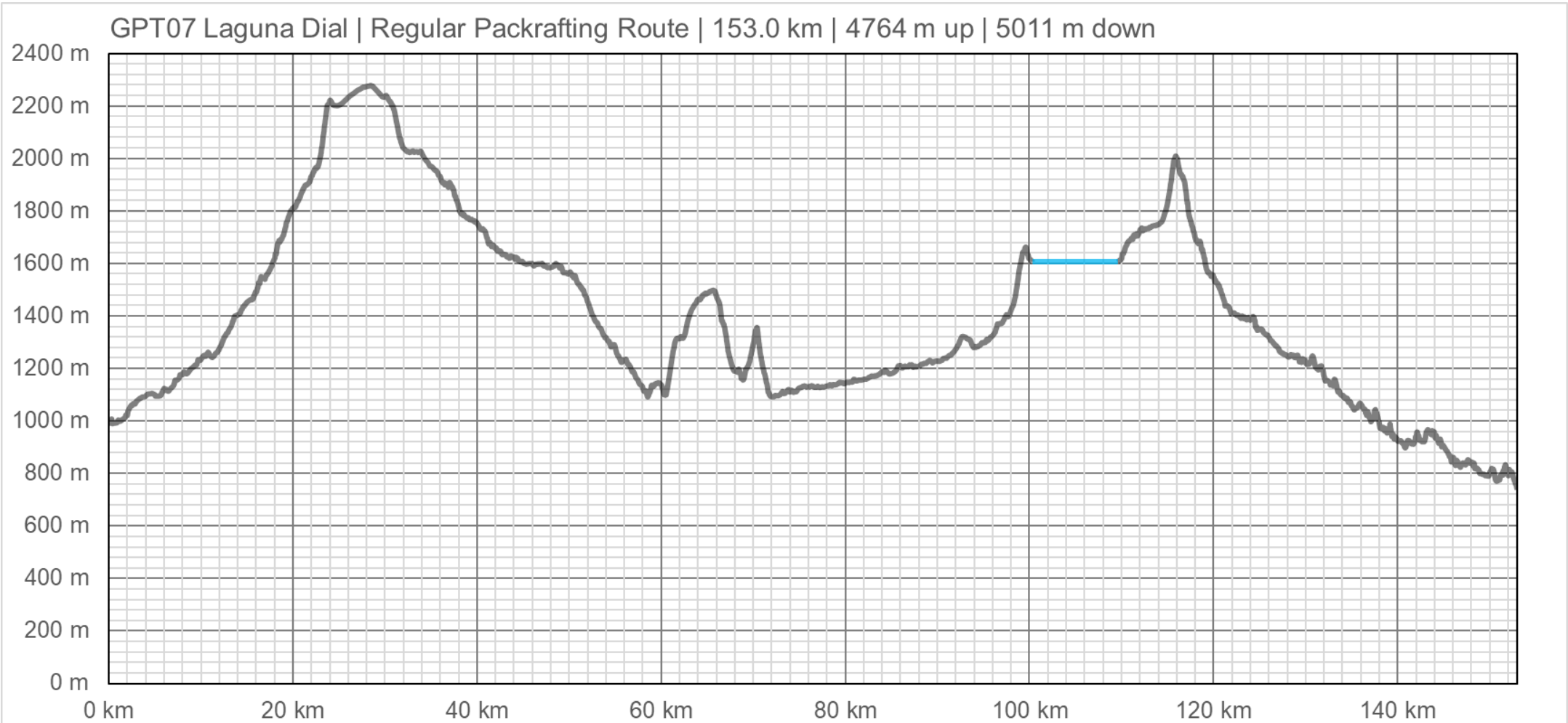
GPT07: Laguna Dial				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	B: Zona Arrieros		Total	**155.3 km**	**49 h**	**153.0 km**	**47 h**
Region	Chile: Maule (VII) & Bío Bío (VIII)		Trails (TL)	126.6 km	81.5%	114.8 km	75.0%
Start	La Mina (Termas del Médano)		Minor Roads (MR)	5.4 km	3.5%	5.4 km	3.5%
Finish	Puente Ingles		Primary Roads (PR)	11.3 km	7.2%	11.3 km	7.4%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	12.0 km	7.7%	12.3 km	8.0%
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT06, GPT08		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	756 km (8 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**9.3 km**	**6.1%**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		9.3 km	6.1%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Several rivers normally become fordable during December. Packrafting: A packraft may be deployed on Laguna Dial but the additional weight may not justify the benefit.						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Hot Springs, Mountain Pastures, Arrieros, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Resupply Distance						

Table 50: GPT07 Section Summary

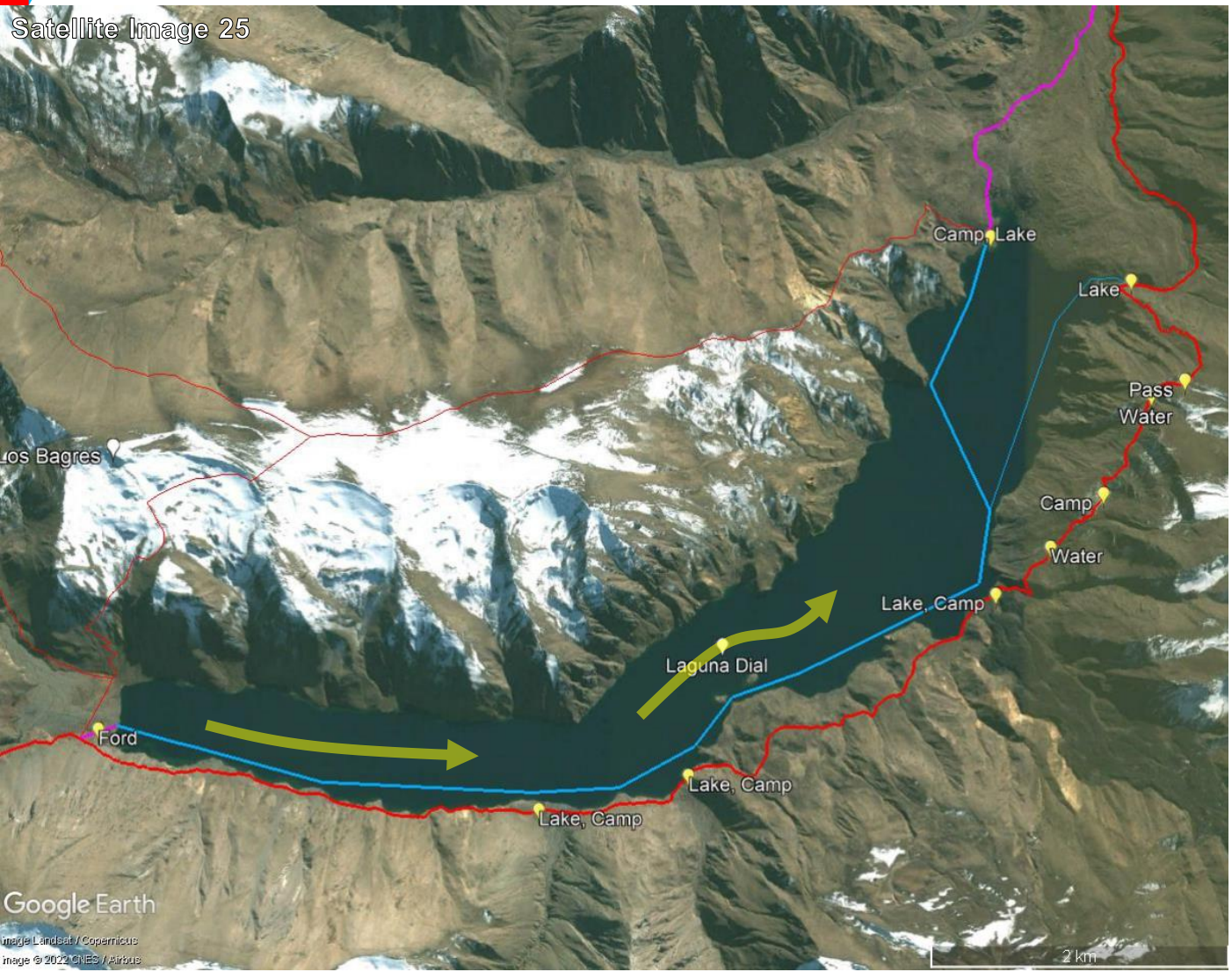

Satellite Image 24:GPT07
Los Alamos
La Mina, Termas El Medano
GPT07 Start
Linares
Control Fronterizo Laguna del Maule
Pejerrey
Carizales
Parral
Los Cuarteles
San Carlos
San Fabian de Alico
Chillan
Puente El Ingles
GPT07 End
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
40 km



Elevation Profile 11: GPT07 Regular Hiking Route



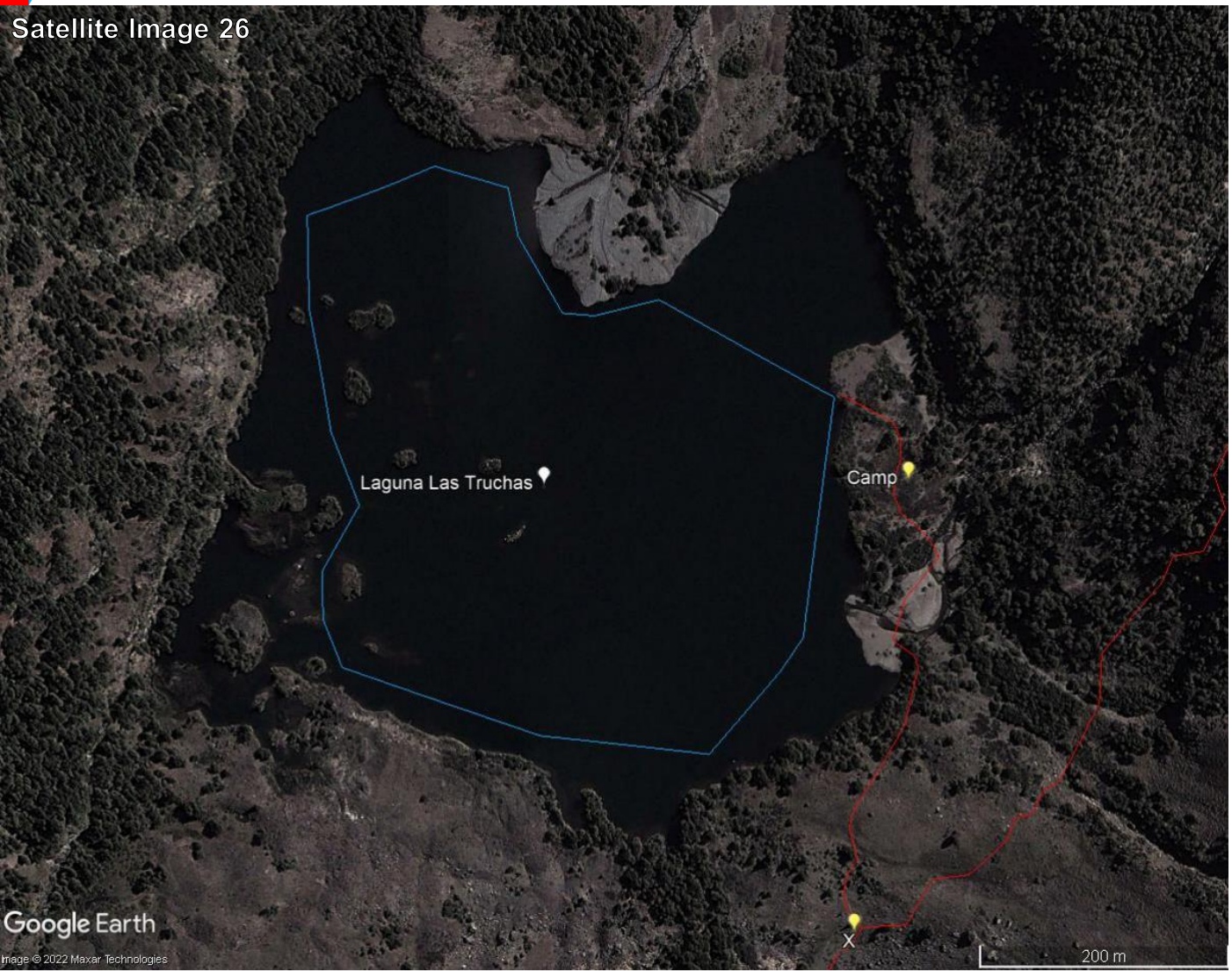
Elevation Profile 12: GPT07 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Laguna Dial	
Part	-
Section	GPT07
Size	9 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Moderate
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 51: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.



Lake: Laguna Las Truchas	
Part	-
Section	GPT07
Size	0.5 km
Wind Direction	Unknown
Wind Intensity	Often Calm
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Sightseeing
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 52: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

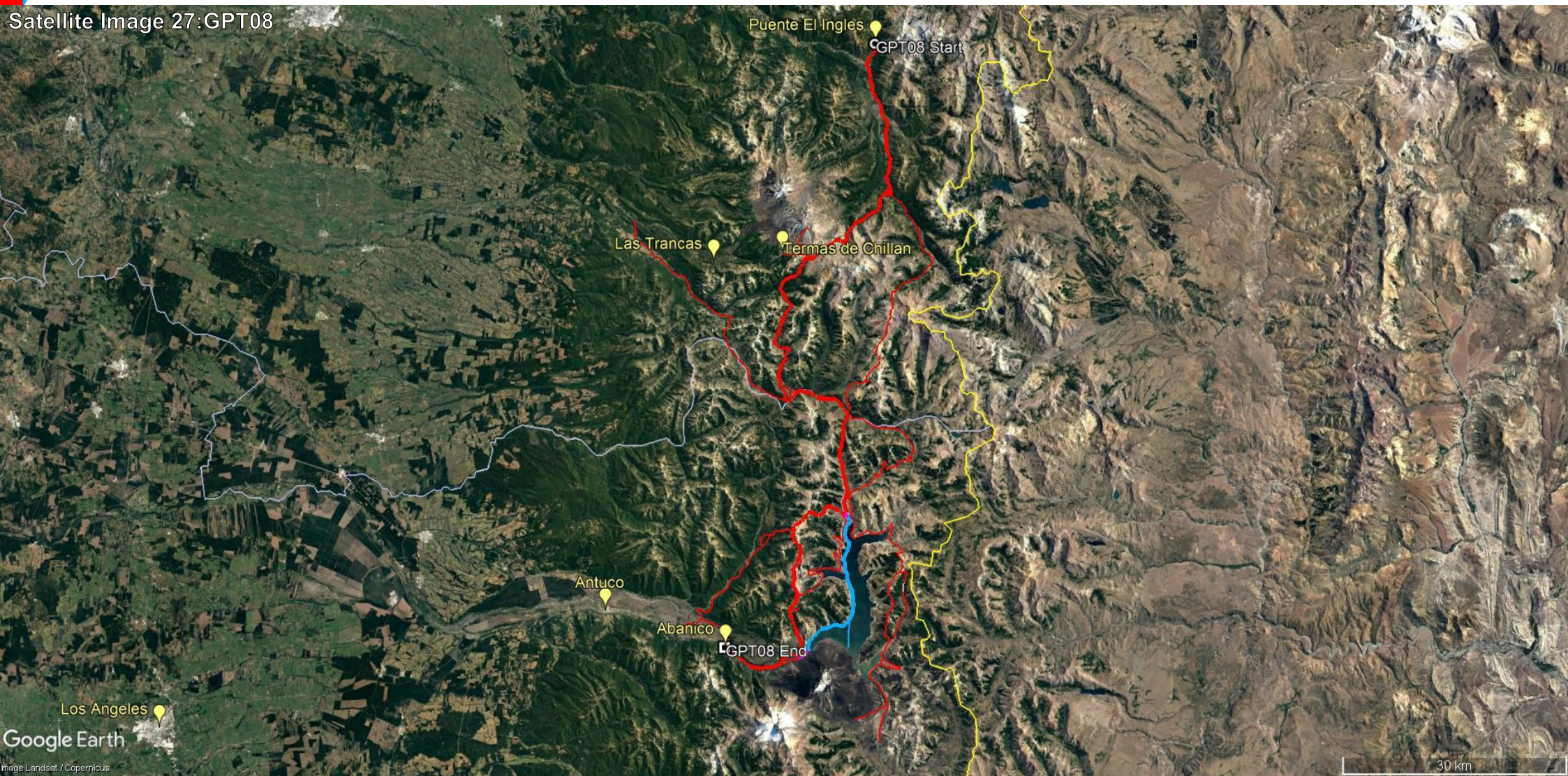
Add comment.

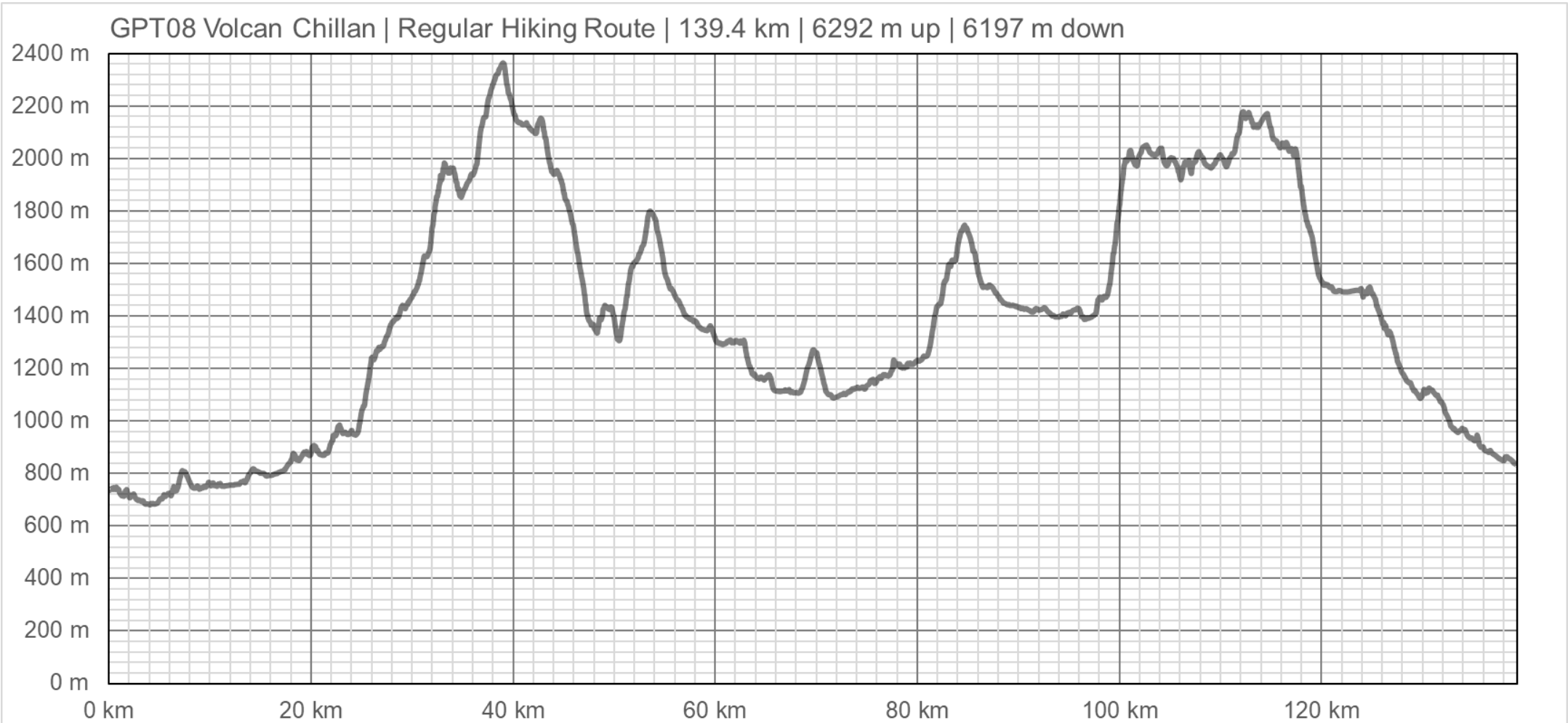
2.5.8 GPT08: Volcán Chillan

GPT08: Volcan Chillan				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	B: Zona Arrieros		Total	**139.4 km**	**47 h**	**133.7 km**	**43 h**
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII)		Trails (TL)	90.0 km	64.6%	67.6 km	50.6%
Start	Puente Ingles		Minor Roads (MR)	30.6 km	21.9%	28.0 km	20.9%
Finish	Abanico		Primary Roads (PR)	8.7 km	6.3%	9.5 km	7.1%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	10.1 km	7.2%	5.7 km	4.3%
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT07, GPT09		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	280 km (6 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**22.9 km**	**17.1%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		22.9 km	17.1%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Several rivers normally become fordable during late December. Packrafting: A packraft may be deployed on Laguna de las Lajas e.g. to bypass the exposed ridge on the lake. Caution is required with the occasional strong wind and the low water temperatures.						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Hot Springs, Mountain Pastures, Arrieros, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Resupply Distance						

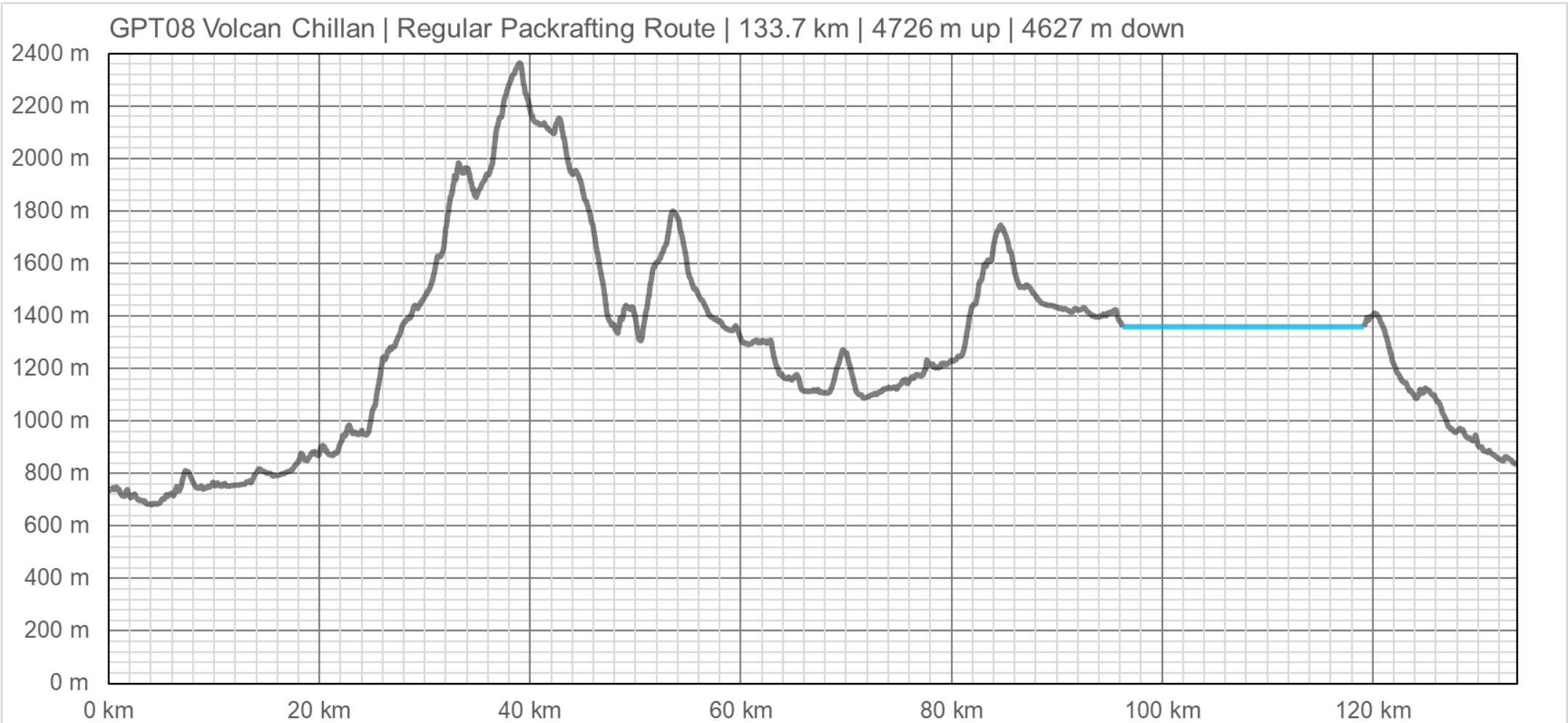
Table 53: GPT08 Section Summary

Satellite Image 27:GPT08

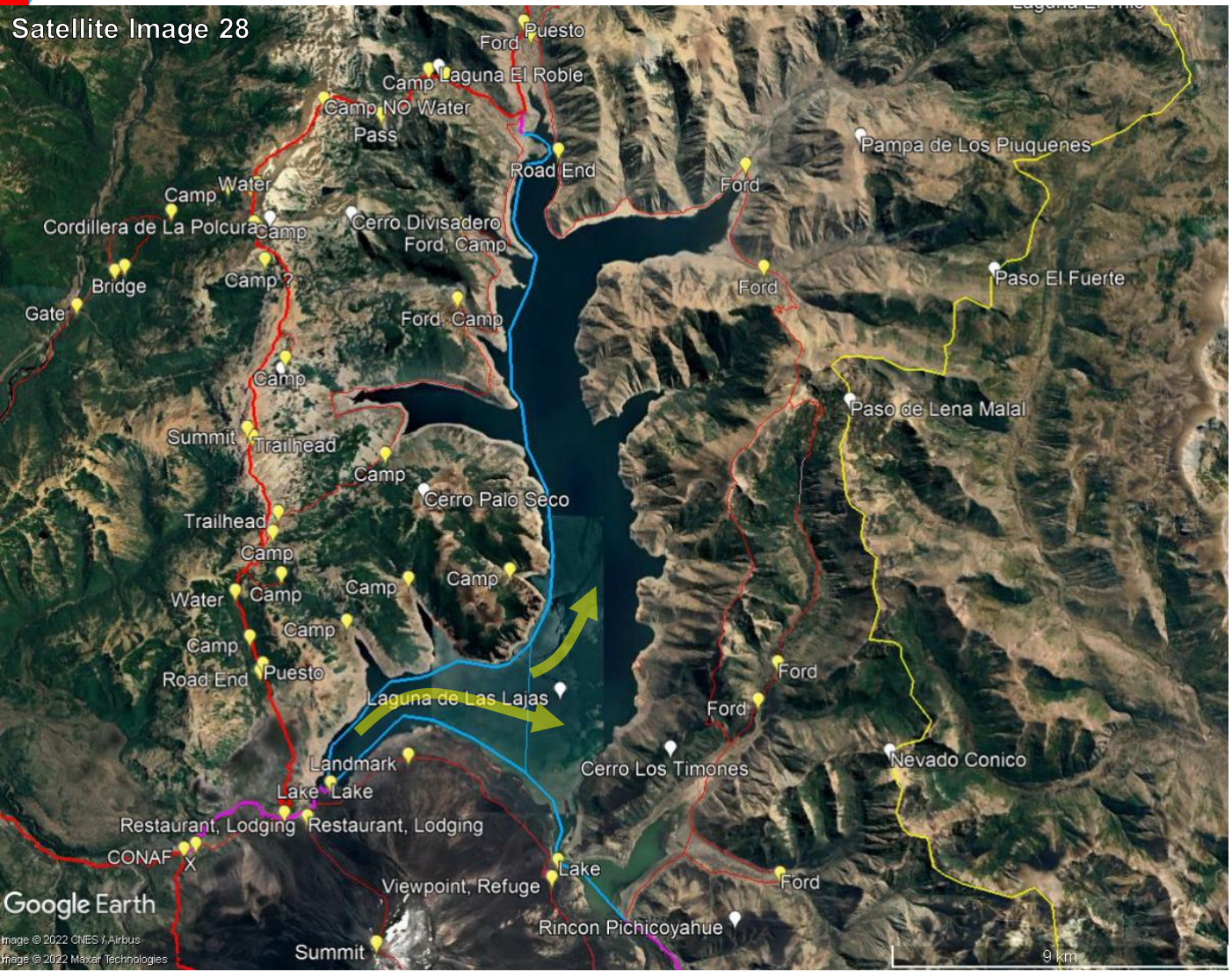




Elevation Profile 13: GPT08 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 14: GPT08 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Laguna de Las Lajas	
Part	-
Section	GPT08, GPT09
Size	25 km
Wind Direction	Irregular
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Preferably Decked
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 54: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

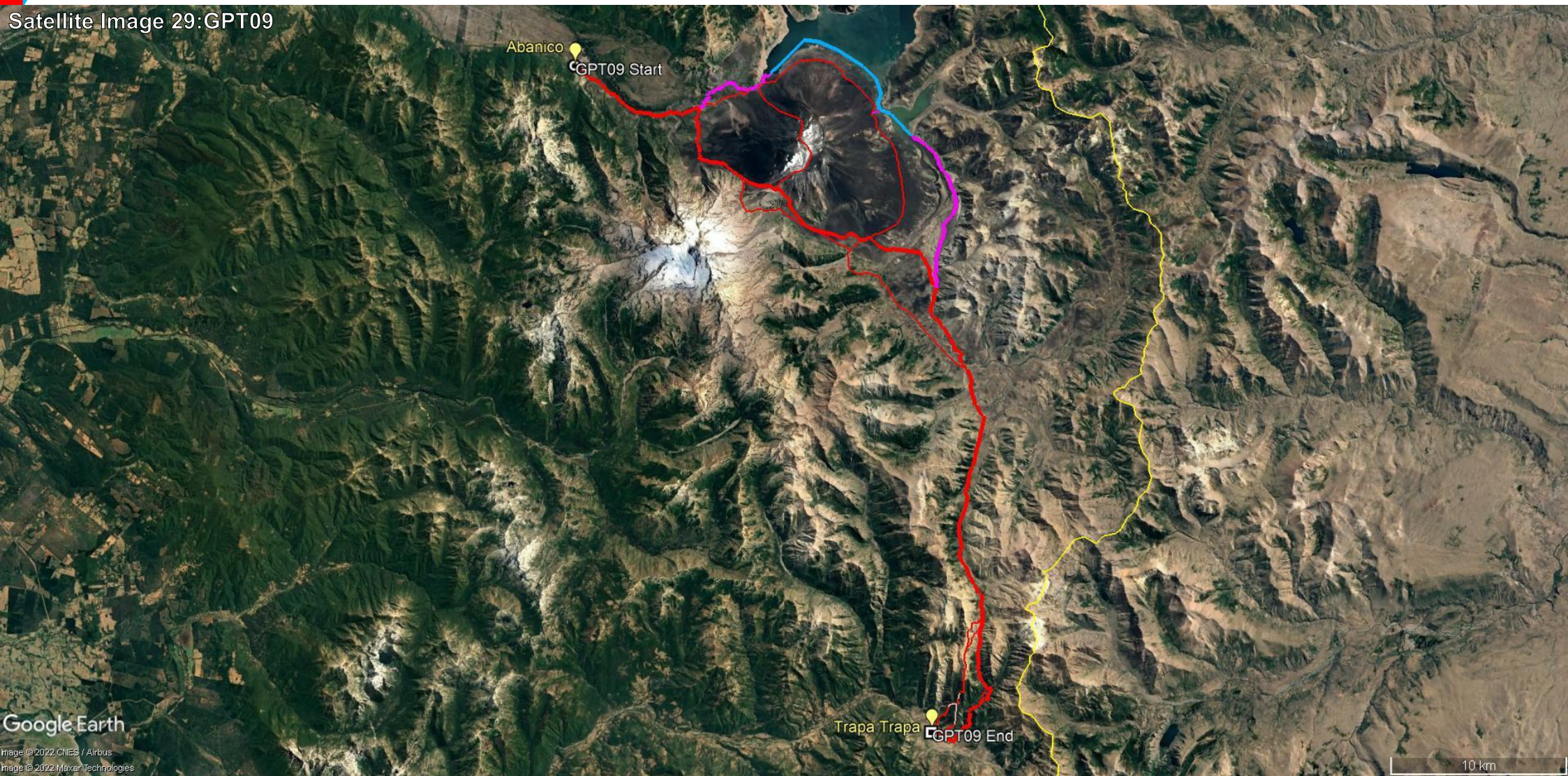
Add comment.

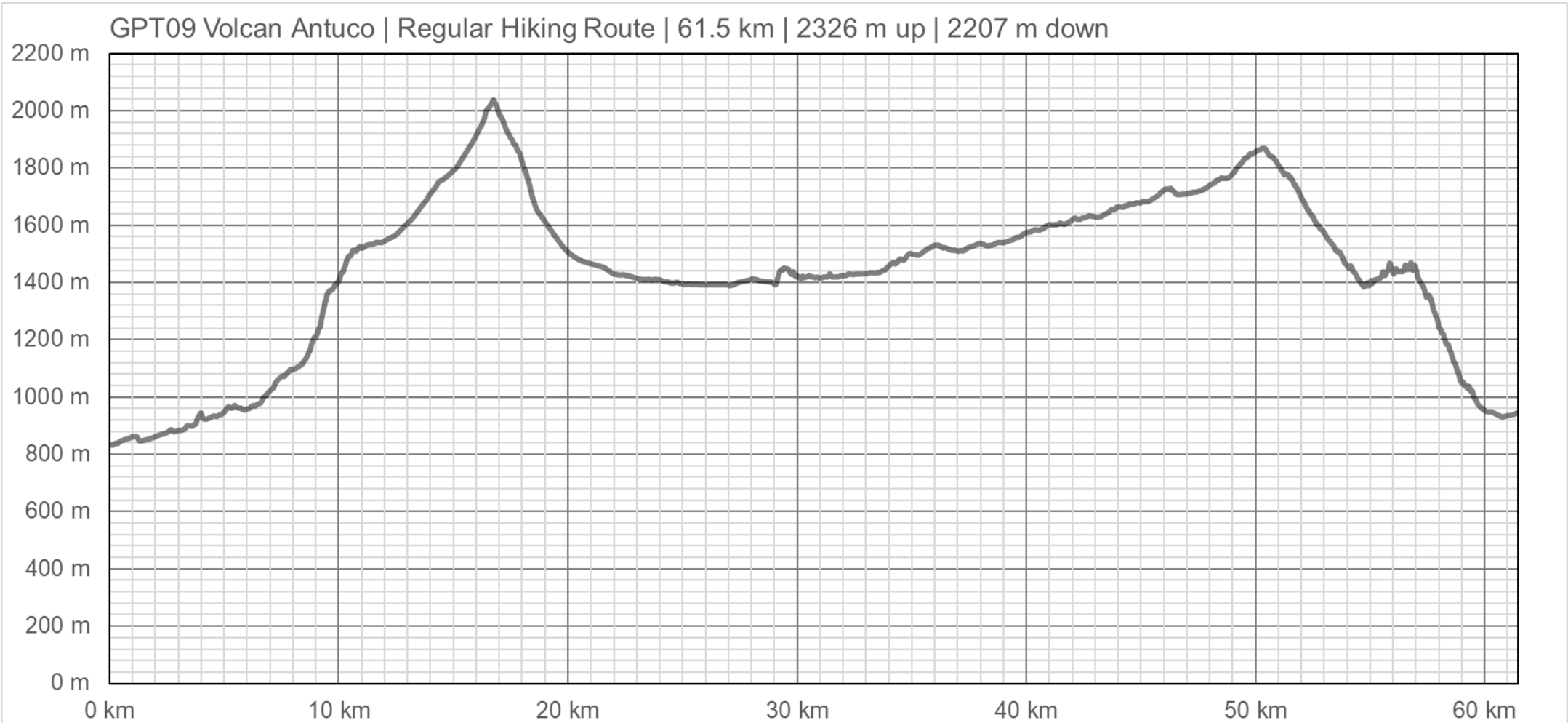
2.5.9 GPT09: Volcán Antuco

GPT09: Volcan Antuco				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	B: Zona Arrieros		Total	**61.5 km**	**20 h**	**68.4 km**	**20 h**
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII)		Trails (TL)	23.0 km	37.3%	21.6 km	31.5%
Start	Abanico		Minor Roads (MR)	13.3 km	21.6%	14.3 km	20.9%
Finish	Trapa Trapa (Posta)		Primary Roads (PR)	10.3 km	16.7%	10.9 km	15.9%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	15.0 km	24.3%	10.0 km	14.7%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT08, GPT10		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	70 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**11.6 km**	**17.0%**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		11.6 km	17.0%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: A packraft may be deployed on Laguna de las Lajas e.g. when crossing between the western and eastern shore. Caution is required with the occasional strong wind and the low water temperatures.						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Mountain Pastures, Pehuenche, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Clambering						

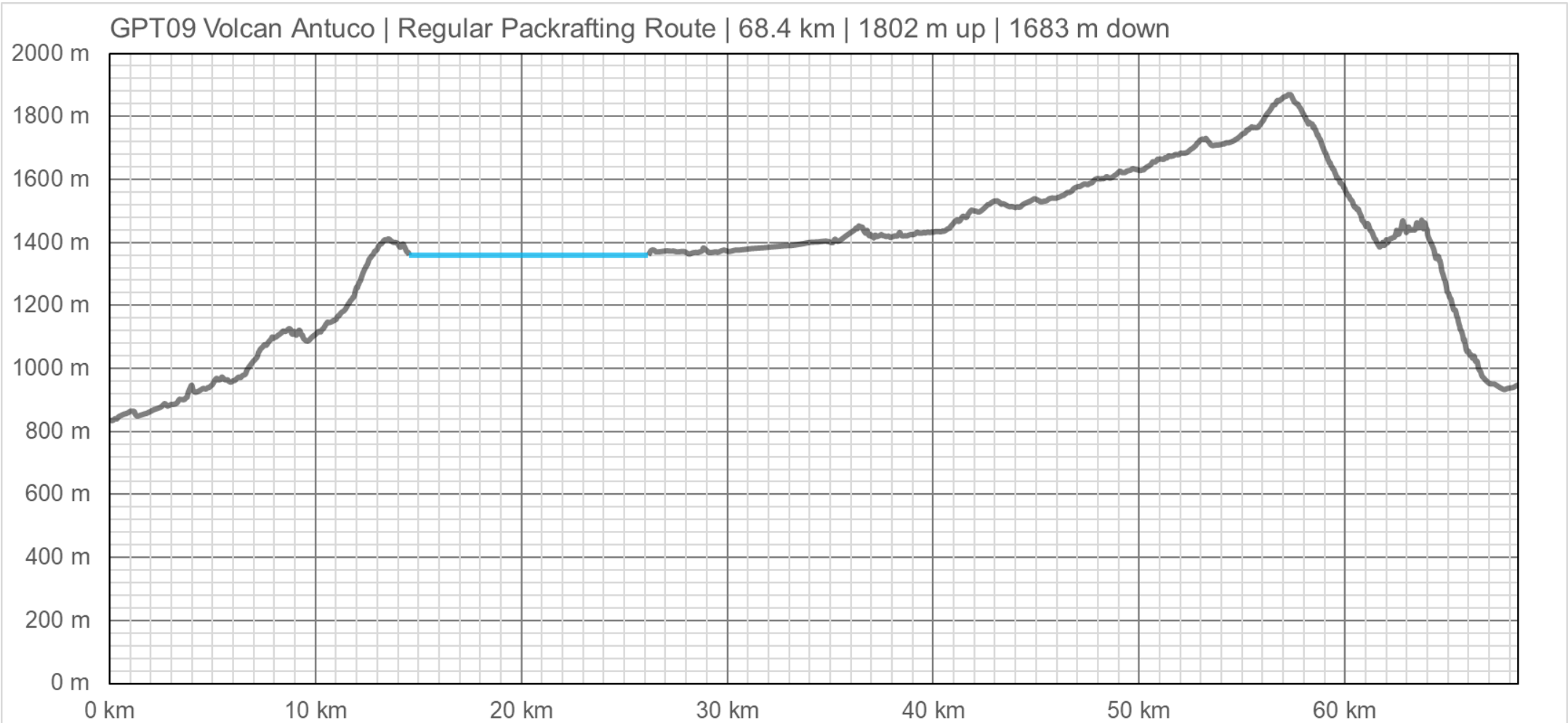
Table 55: GPT09 Section Summary

Satellite Image 29:GPT09





Elevation Profile 15: GPT09 Regular Hiking Route

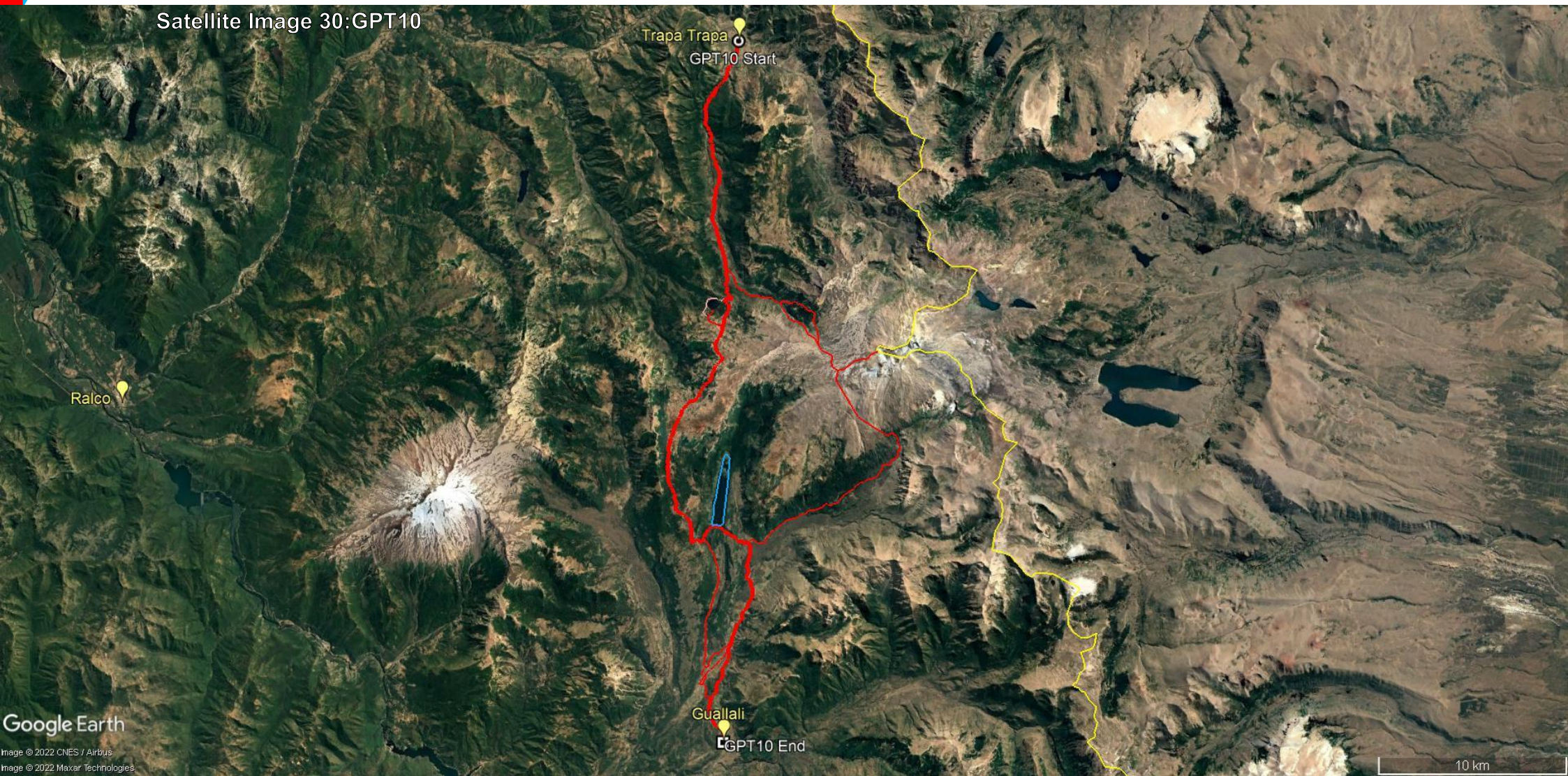


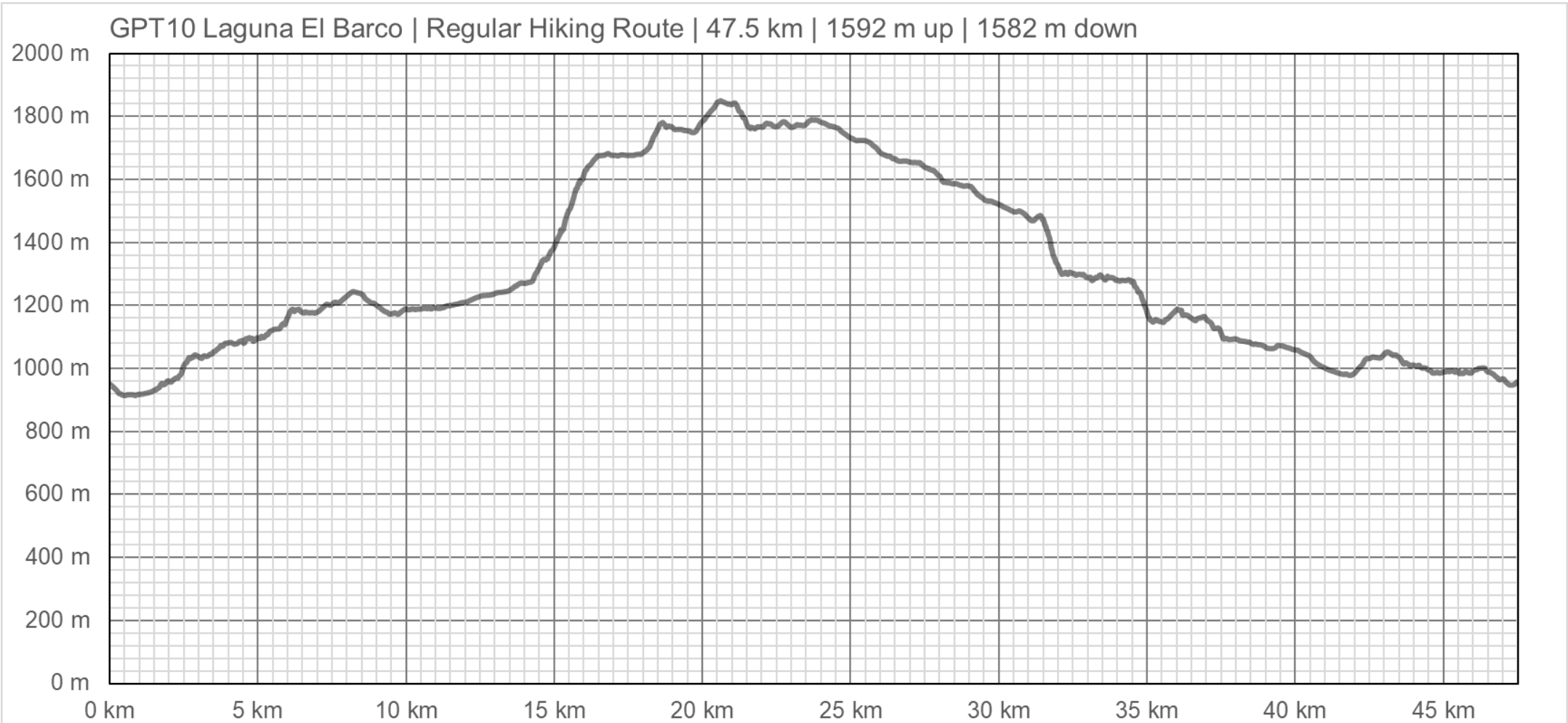
Elevation Profile 16: GPT09 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.10 GPT10: Laguna El Barco

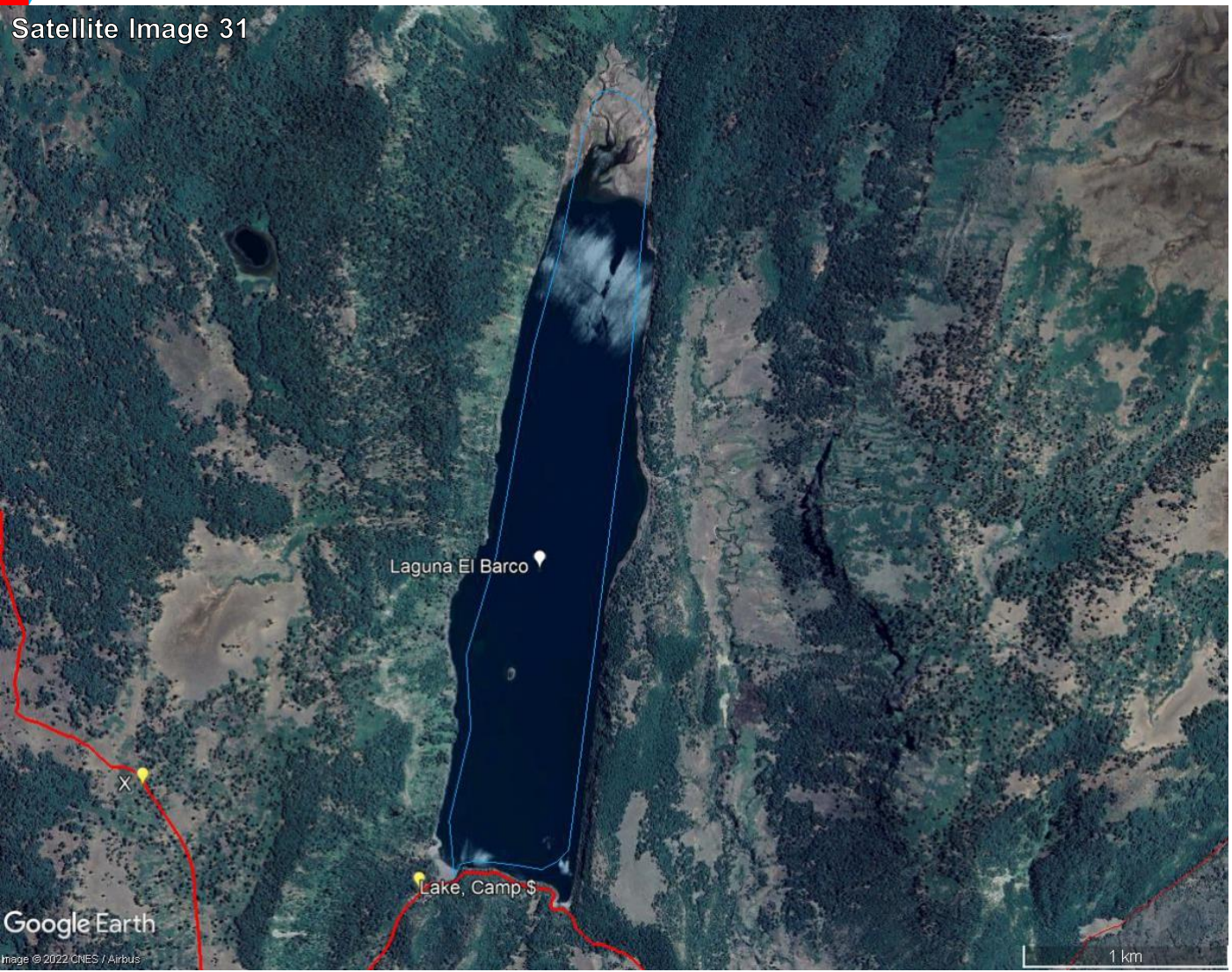
GPT10: Laguna El Barco				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	C: Zona Pehuenche		Total	**47.5 km**	**14 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII)		Trails (TL)	31.0 km	65.1%	-	-
Start	Trapa Trapa (Posta)		Minor Roads (MR)	14.2 km	29.9%	-	-
Finish	Guallali (Carabiñeros)		Primary Roads (PR)	2.4 km	5.0%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT09, GPT11		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	64 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: No water from km 14 to km 33 except if detouring to Laguna Liay.						
Character	Araucaria Forest, Mountain Pastures, Pehuenche						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Lack of Drinking Water						

Table 56: GPT10 Section Summary


Satellite Image 30:GPT10
Trapa Trapa
GPT10 Start
Ralco
Guallali
GPT10 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



Elevation Profile 17: GPT10 Regular Route



Lake: Laguna El Barco	
Part	-
Section	GPT10
Size	4 km
Wind Direction	Unknown
Wind Intensity	Often Calm
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Sightseeing
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 57: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

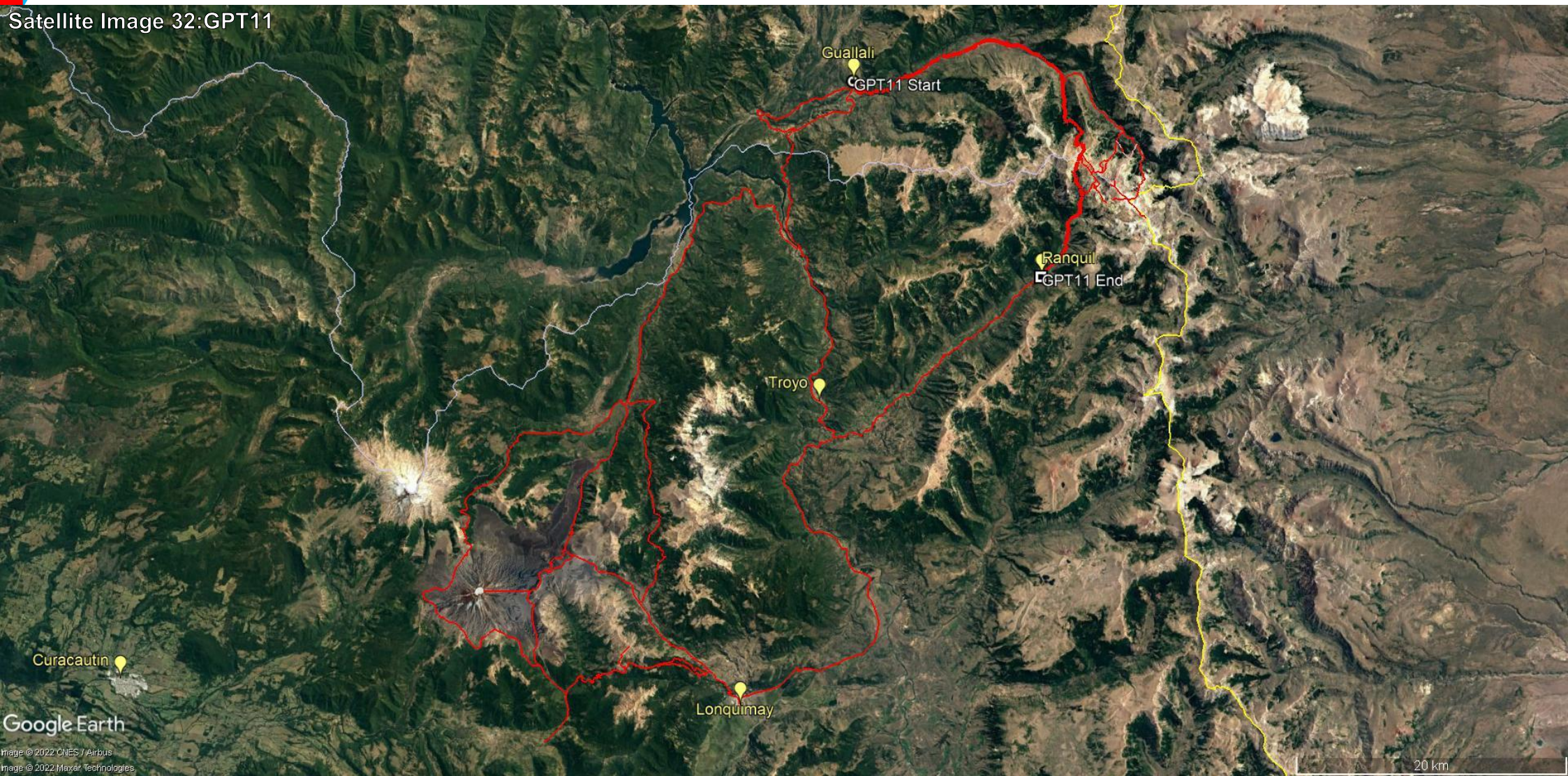
Add comment.

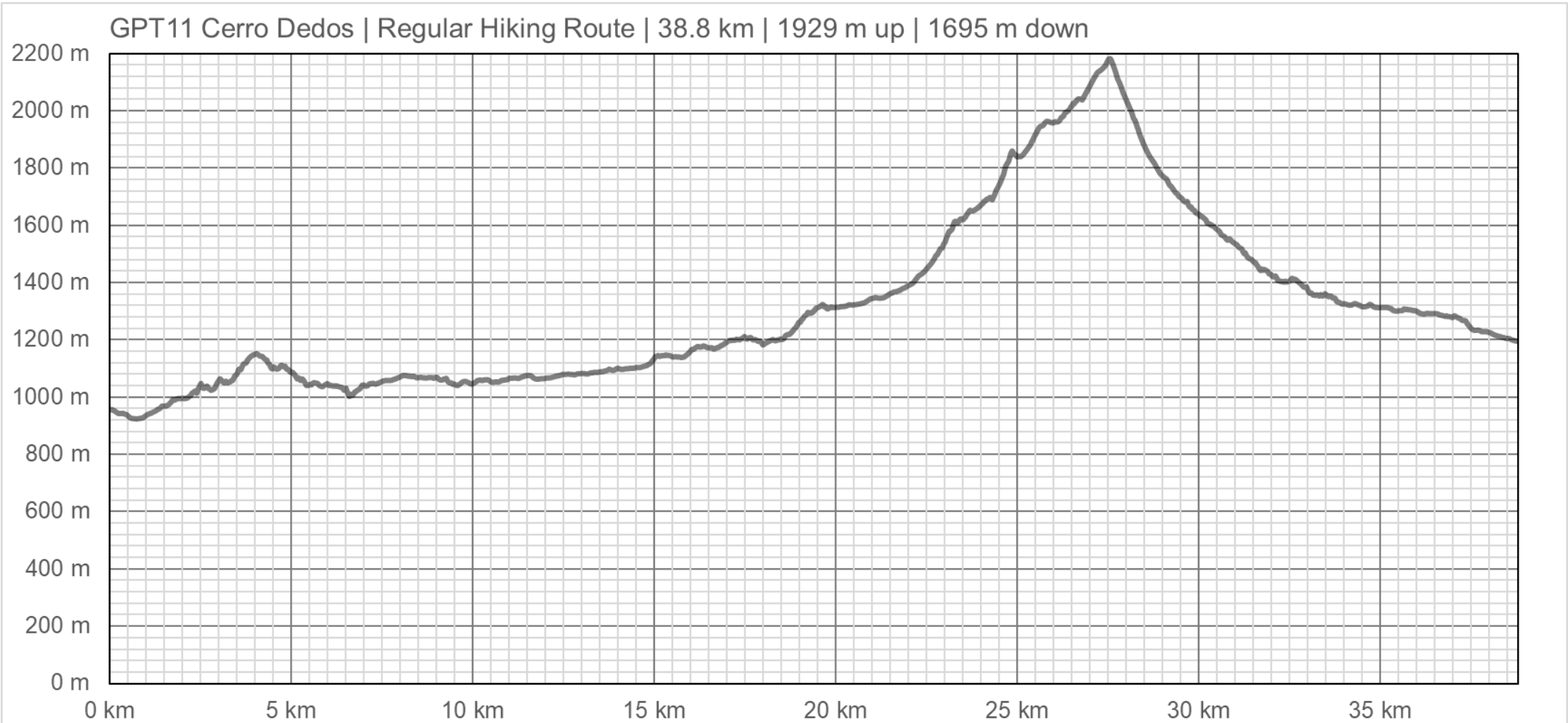
2.5.11 GPT11: Cerro Dedos

GPT11: Cerro Dedos				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	C: Zona Pehuenche		Total	**38.8 km**	**14 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII) & Araucanía (IX)		Trails (TL)	29.0 km	74.7%	-	-
Start	Guallali (Carabiñeros)		Minor Roads (MR)	5.8 km	14.8%	-	-
Finish	Ranquil (Carabiñeros)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	4.1 km	10.5%	-	-
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT10, GPT12		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	331 km (5 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Decent from pass at km 27 was described as difficult in particular if leaving the bottom of the gorge and seeking to walk higher up.						
Character	Araucaria Forest, Alpine Terrain, Summit Ascents, Hot Springs, Mountain Pastures, Pehuenche						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Demanding Navigation						

Table 58: GPT11 Section Summary

Satellite Image 32:GPT11





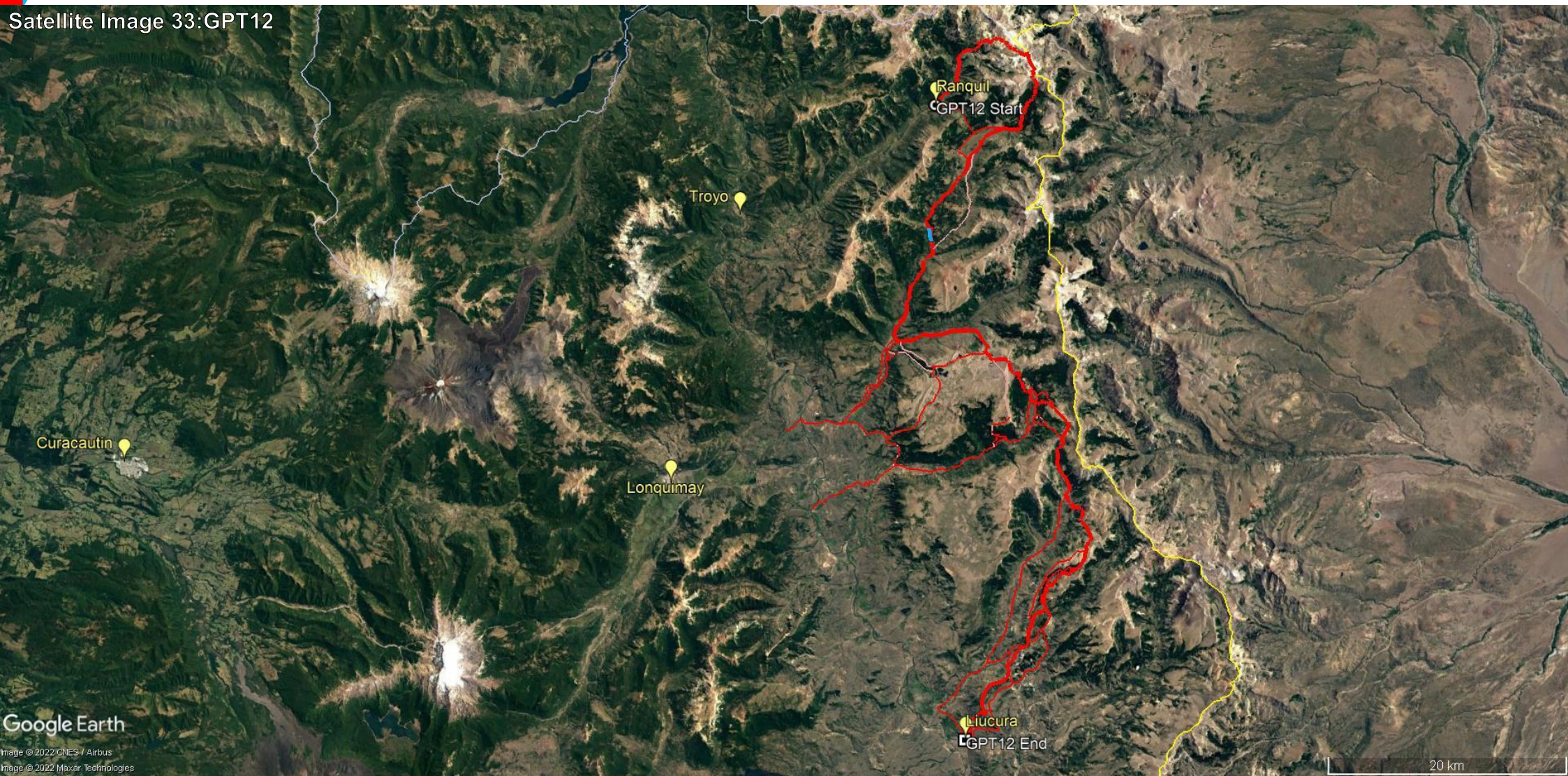
Elevation Profile 18: GPT11 Regular Route

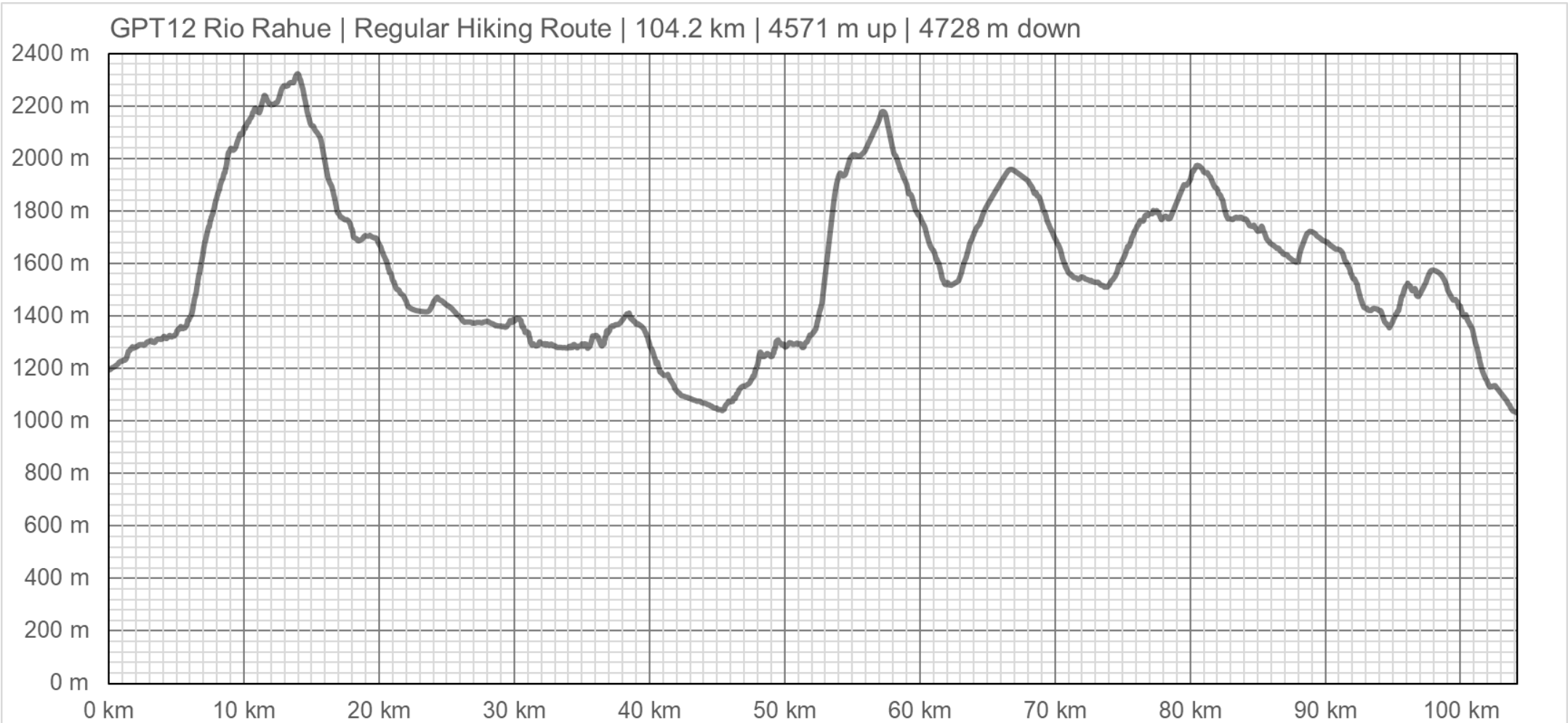
2.5.12 GPT12: Río Rahue

GPT12: Rio Rahue				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	C: Zona Pehuenche		Total	**104.2 km**	**36 h**	**103.8 km**	**36 h**
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)		Trails (TL)	57.3 km	55.0%	55.8 km	53.7%
Start	Ranquil (Carabiñeros)		Minor Roads (MR)	12.1 km	11.6%	12.1 km	11.6%
Finish	Liucura		Primary Roads (PR)	0.5 km	0.5%	0.5 km	0.5%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	34.3 km	32.9%	34.3 km	33.1%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT11, GPT13		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	199 km (5 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**1.1 km**	**1.1%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		1.1 km	1.1%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Take low route Option 1 in poor or instable weather.						
Character	Araucaria Forest, Alpine Terrain, Hot Springs, Mountain Pastures, Pehuenche, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Resupply Distance, Right-of-Way Disputes						

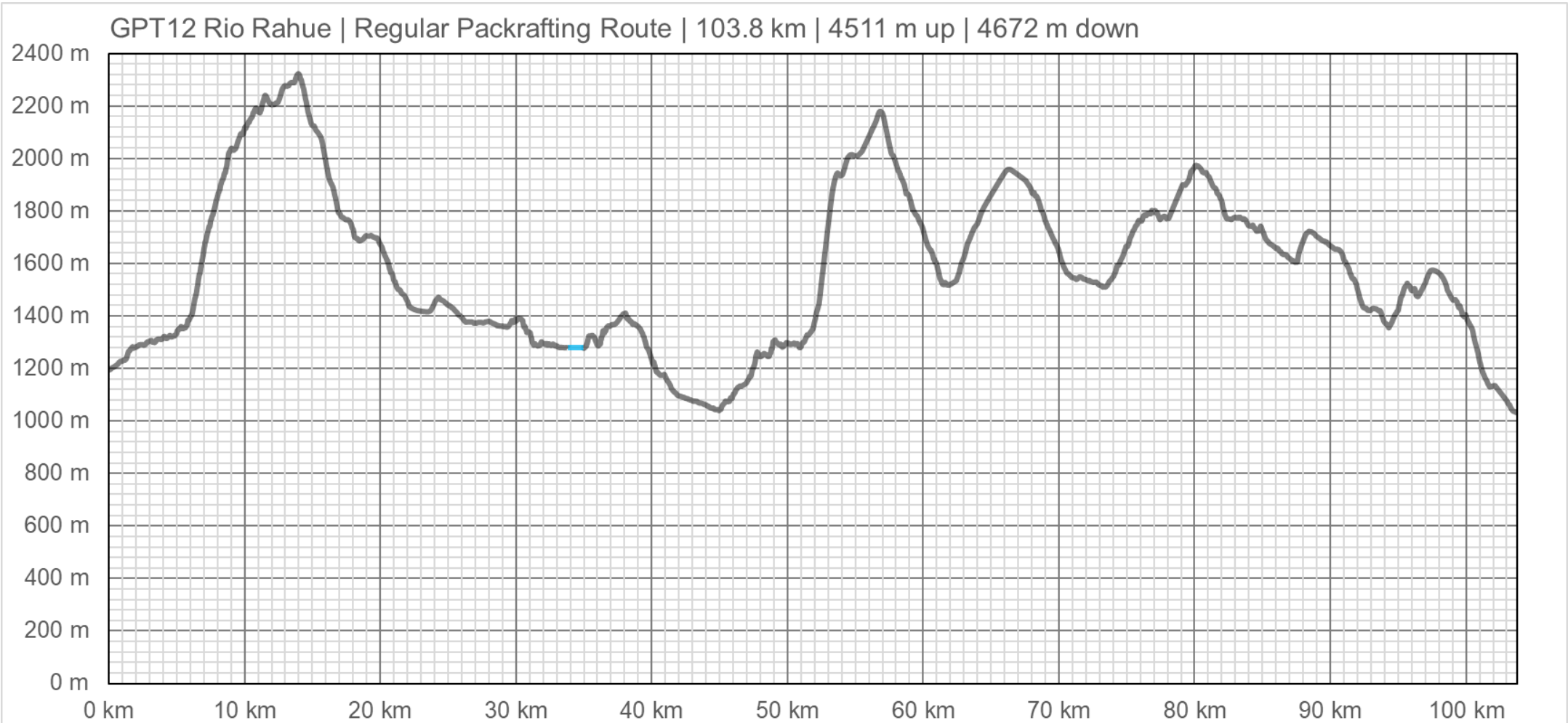
Table 59: GPT12 Section Summary

Satellite Image 33:GPT12

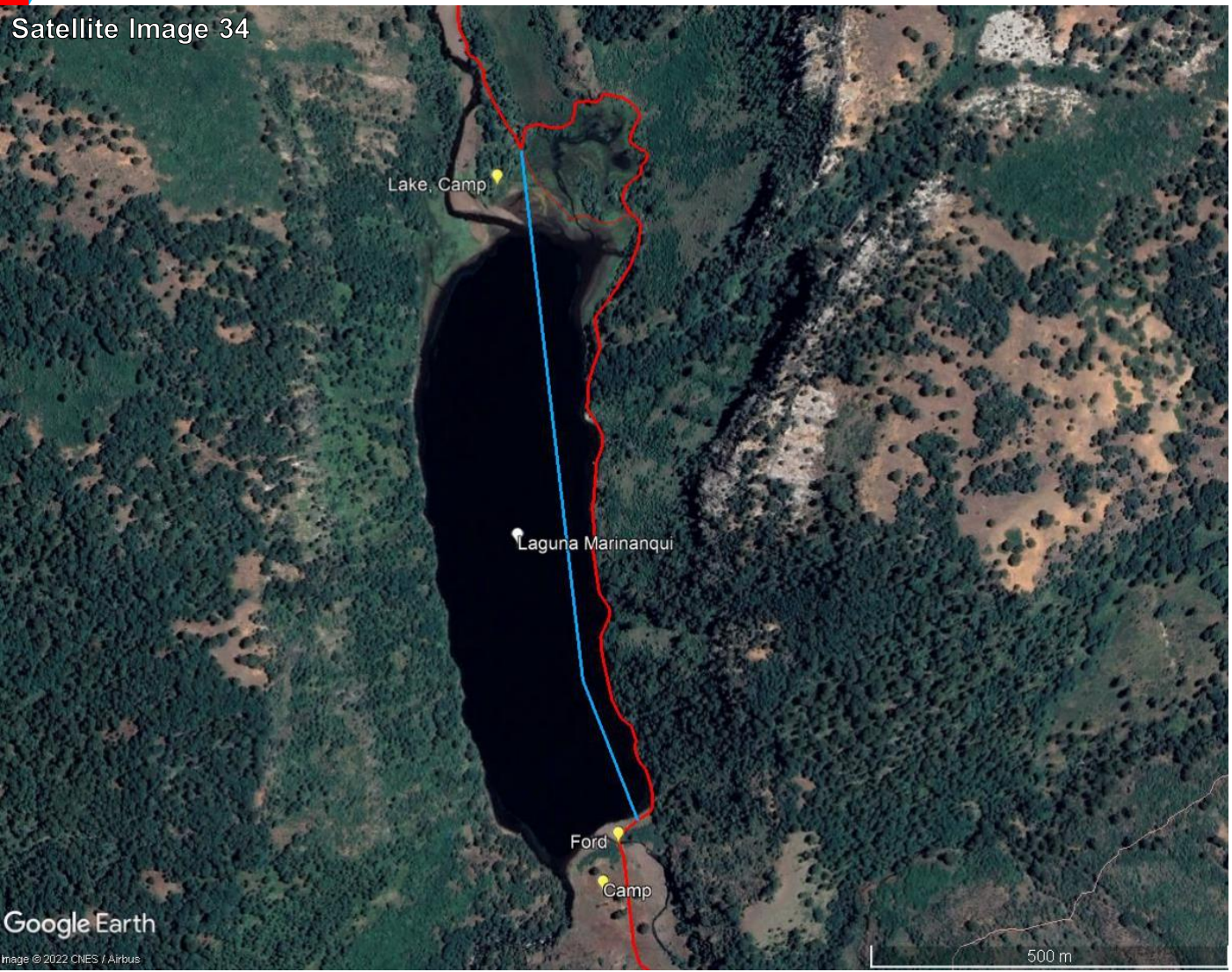




Elevation Profile 19: GPT12 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 20: GPT12 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Laguna Marinanqui	
Part	-
Section	GPT12
Size	1 km
Wind Direction	Unknown
Wind Intensity	Often Calm
Exits and Camps	Ample
Travel Direction	Sightseeing
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 60: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.

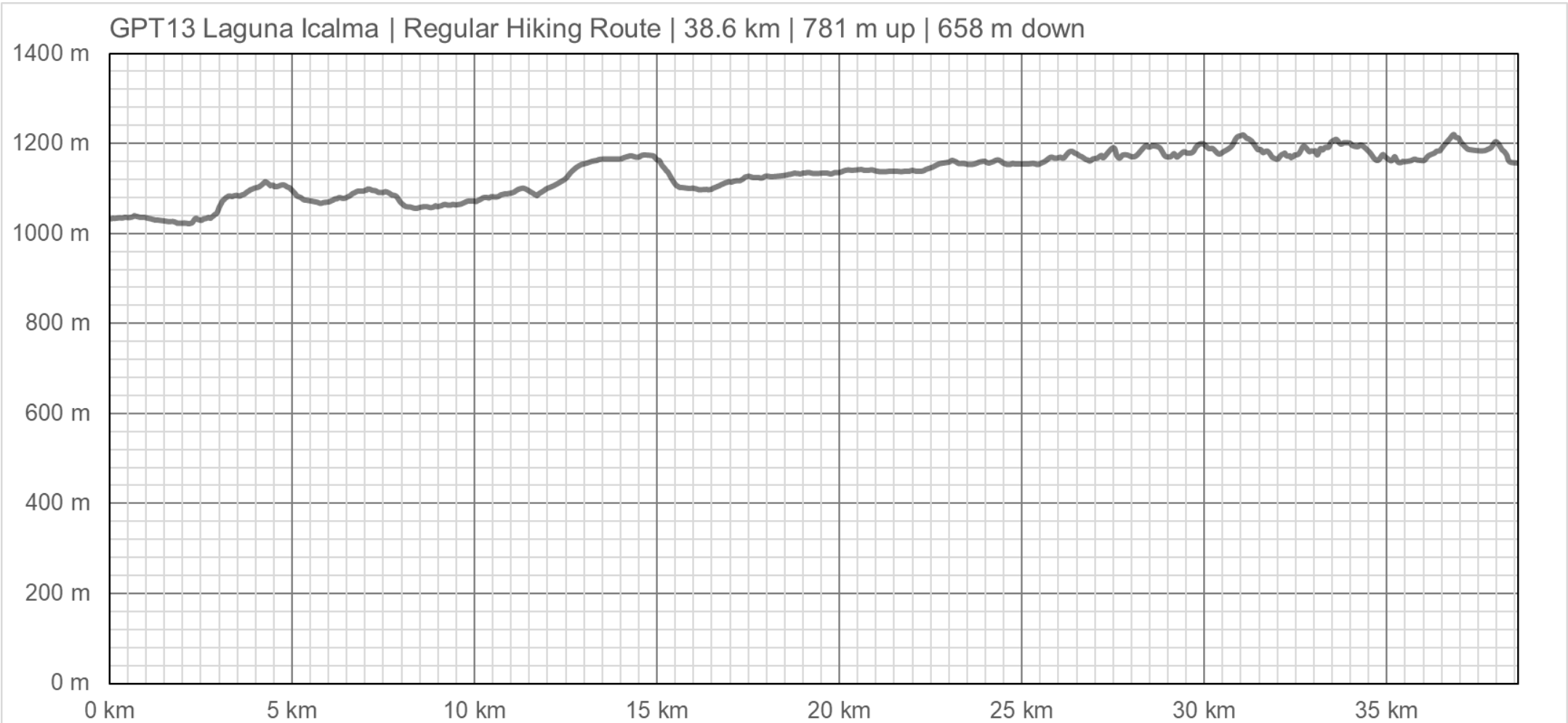
2.5.13 GPT13: Laguna Icalma

GPT13: Laguna Icalma				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	C: Zona Pehuenche		Total	**38.6 km**	**10 h**	**31.0 km**	**8 h**
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)		Trails (TL)	3.9 km	10.2%	3.9 km	12.7%
Start	Liucura		Minor Roads (MR)	29.8 km	77.1%	20.2 km	65.3%
Finish	Icalma		Primary Roads (PR)	3.8 km	9.9%	0.7 km	2.2%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	1.1 km	2.8%	1.3 km	4.1%
Traversable	Dec - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Nov, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT12, GPT14		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	59 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**4.9 km**	**15.8%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		4.9 km	15.8%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Araucaria Forest, Mountain Pastures, Pehuenche, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords						

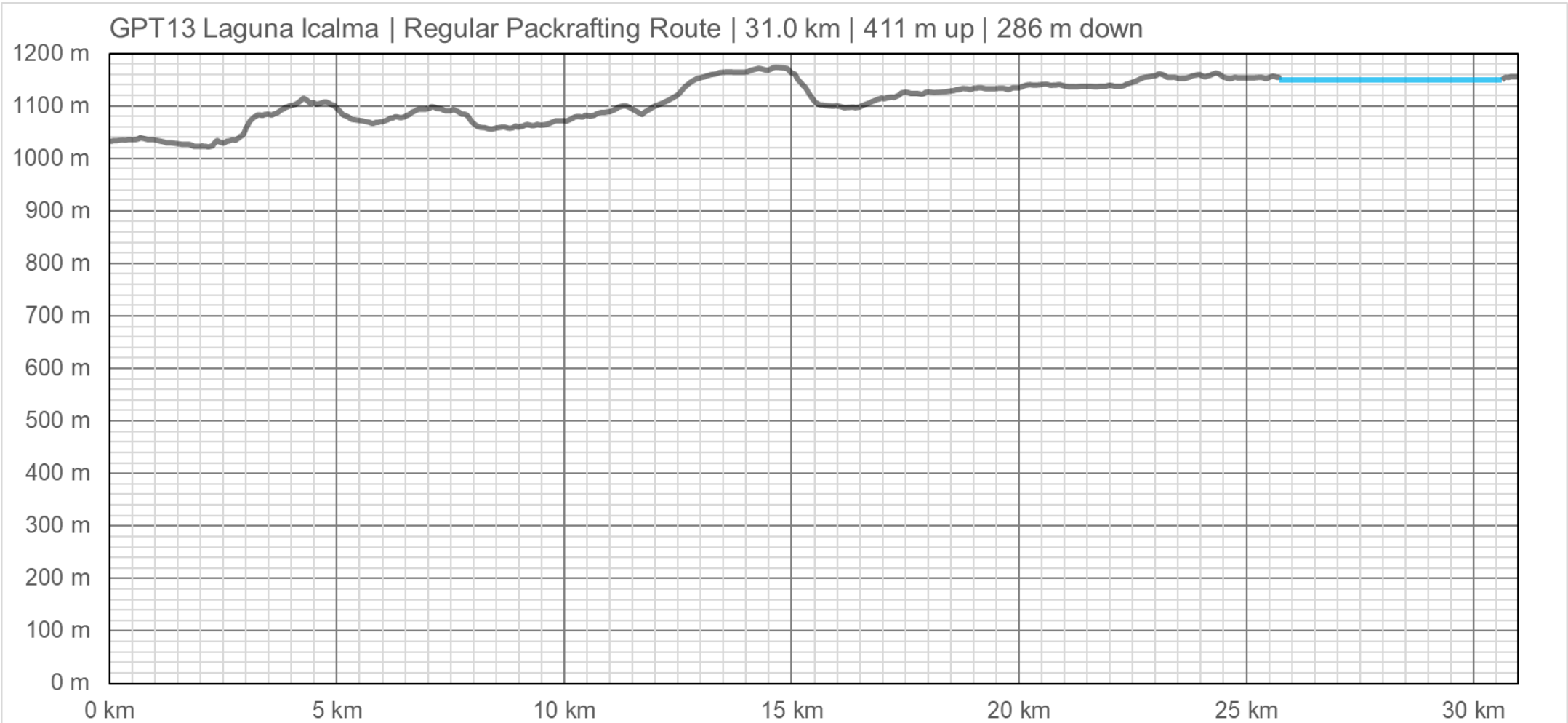
Table 61: GPT13 Section Summary

Satellite Image 35:GPT13

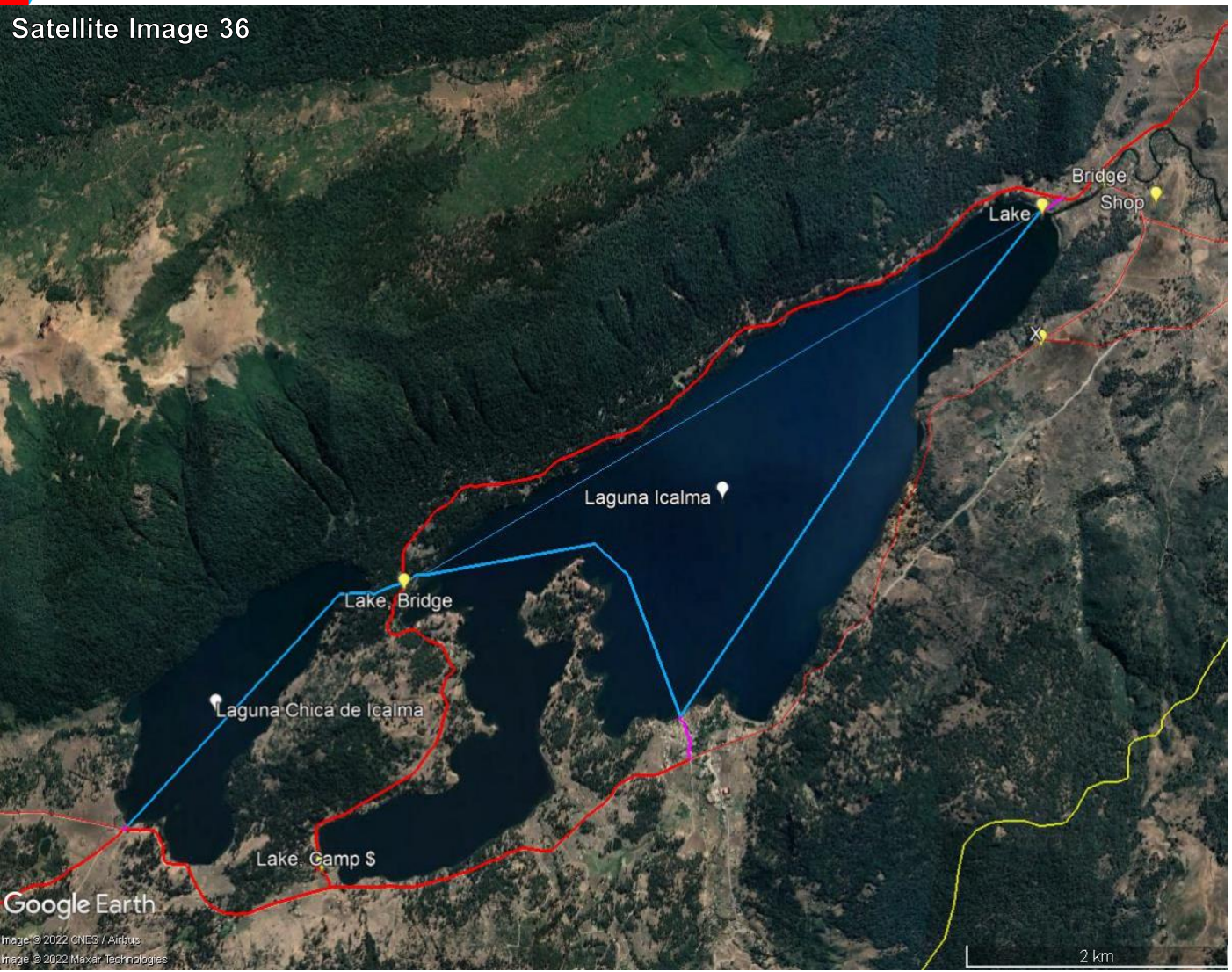




Elevation Profile 21: GPT13 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 22: GPT13 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Laguna Icalma	
Part	-
Section	GPT13, GPT14
Size	9 km
Wind Direction	Unknown
Wind Intensity	Moderate
Exits and Camps	Ample
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 62: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.

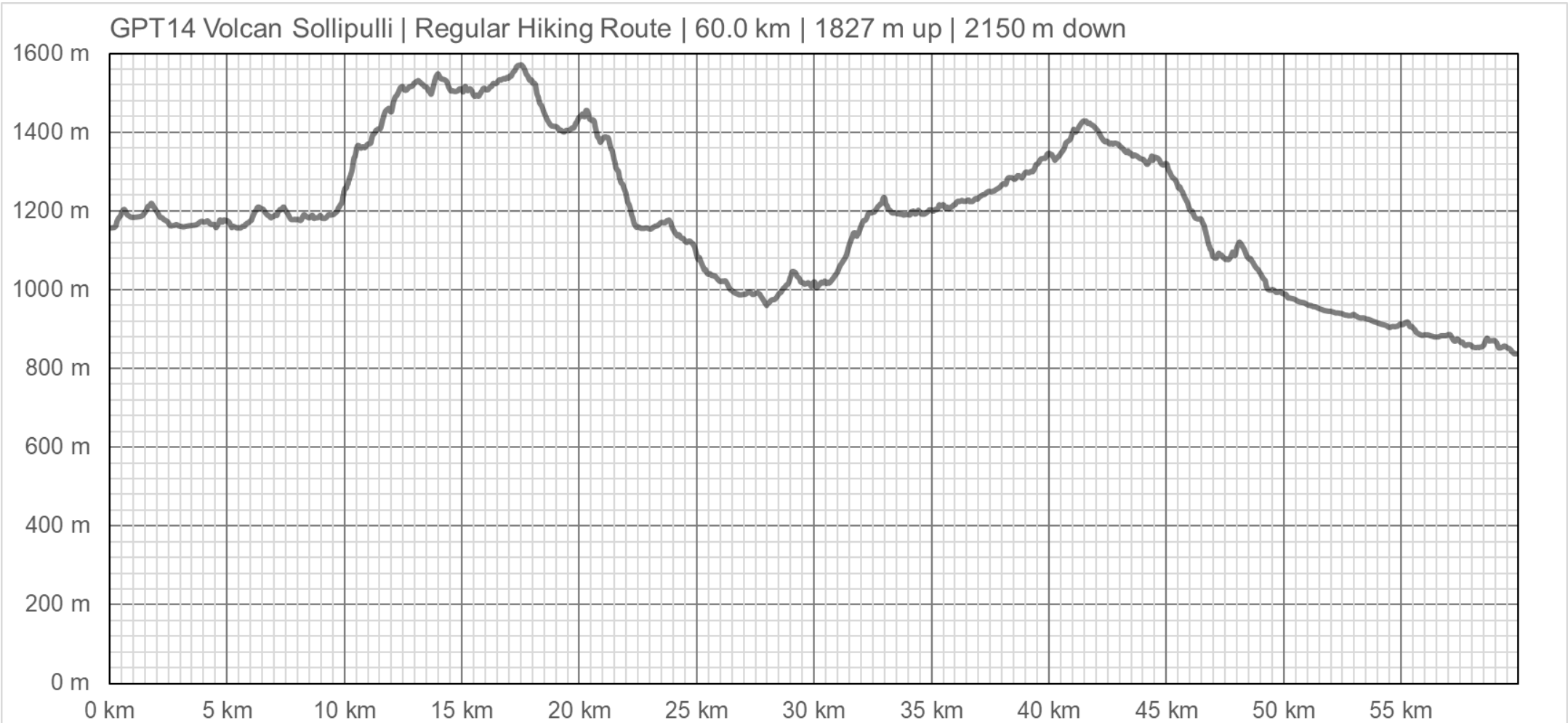
2.5.14 GPT14: Volcán Sollipulli

GPT14: Volcan Sollipulli				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	C: Zona Pehuenche		Total	**60.0 km**	**17 h**	**61.3 km**	**18 h**
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)		Trails (TL)	5.8 km	9.6%	5.8 km	9.4%
Start	Icalma		Minor Roads (MR)	49.0 km	81.7%	49.4 km	80.6%
Finish	Reigolil		Primary Roads (PR)	5.2 km	8.7%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.0 km	0.1%
Traversable	Dec - Apr (Maybe: Oct, Nov, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT13, GPT15		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	54 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**6.1 km**	**9.9%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		6.1 km	9.9%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Trail from km 10 to km 14 may be overgrown.						
Character	Araucaria Forest, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Mountain Pastures, Pehuenche, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords						

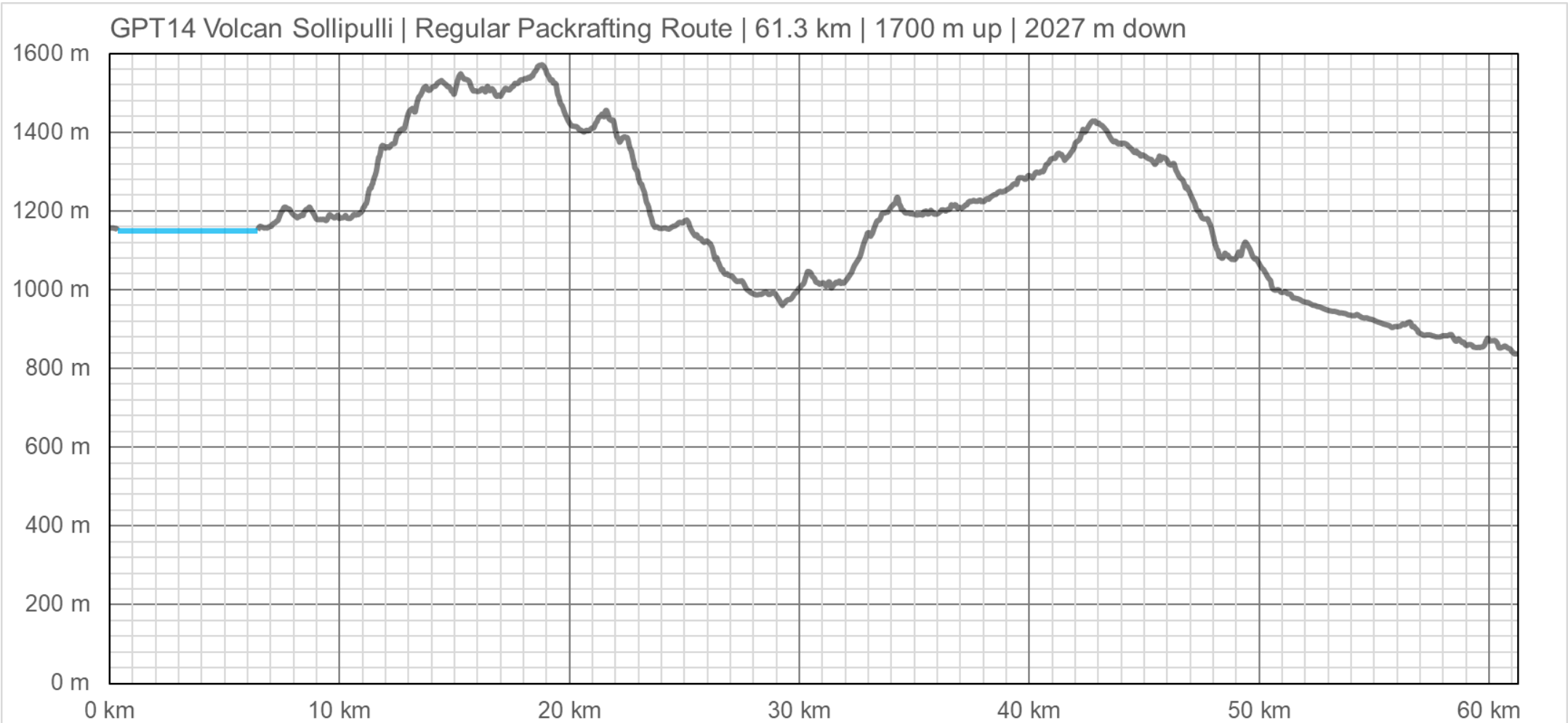
Table 63: GPT14 Section Summary

Satellite Image 37:GPT14





Elevation Profile 23: GPT14 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 24: GPT14 Regular Packrafting Route

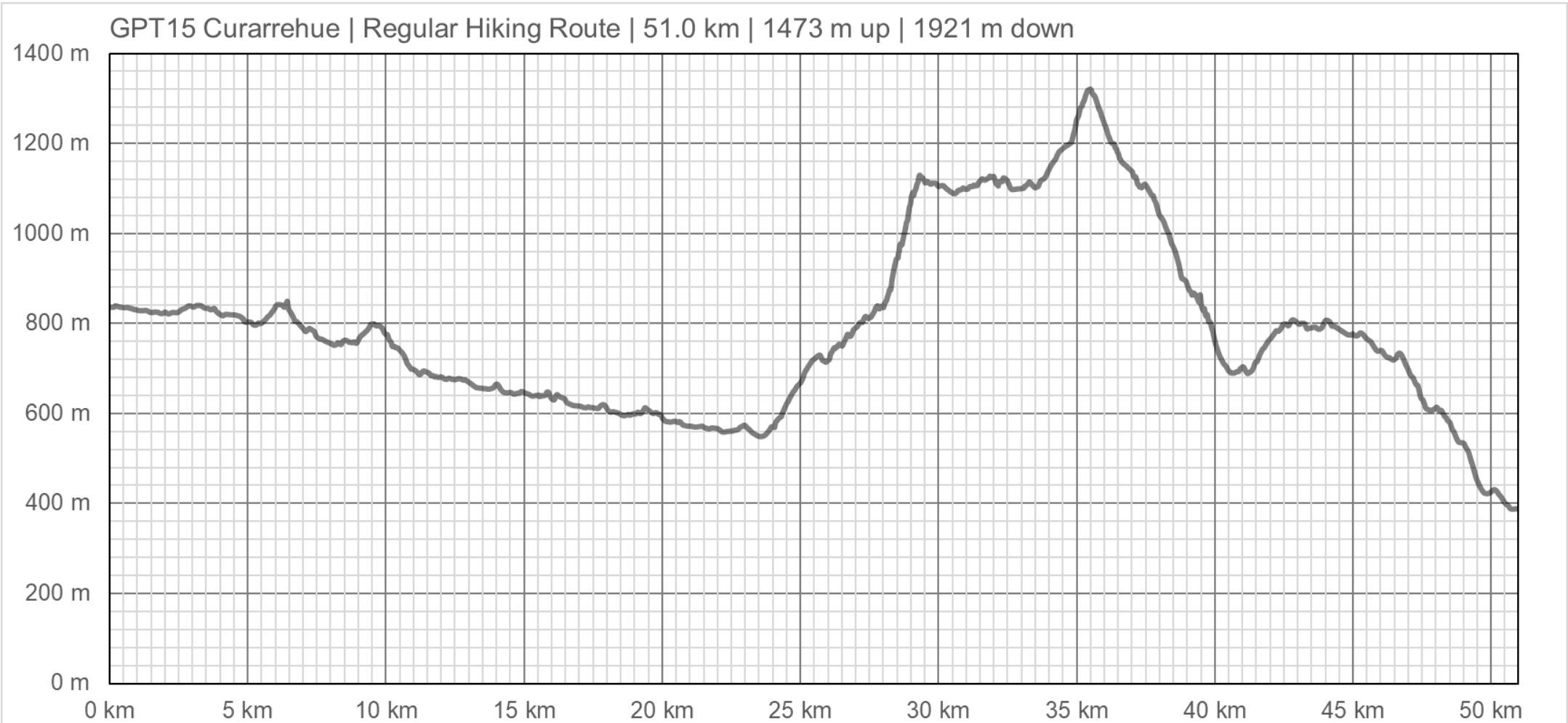
2.5.15 GPT15: Curarrehue

GPT15: Curarrehue				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	C: Zona Pehuenche		Total	**51.0 km**	**15 h**	**50.9 km**	**15 h**
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)		Trails (TL)	9.3 km	18.2%	7.7 km	15.1%
Start	Reigolil		Minor Roads (MR)	32.2 km	63.2%	32.2 km	63.3%
Finish	Currarehue		Primary Roads (PR)	9.5 km	18.5%	9.5 km	18.6%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT14, GPT16		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	111 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**1.5 km**	**3.0%**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	1 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	1 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		1.5 km	3.0%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Mountain Pastures, Farmland, Pehuenche, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

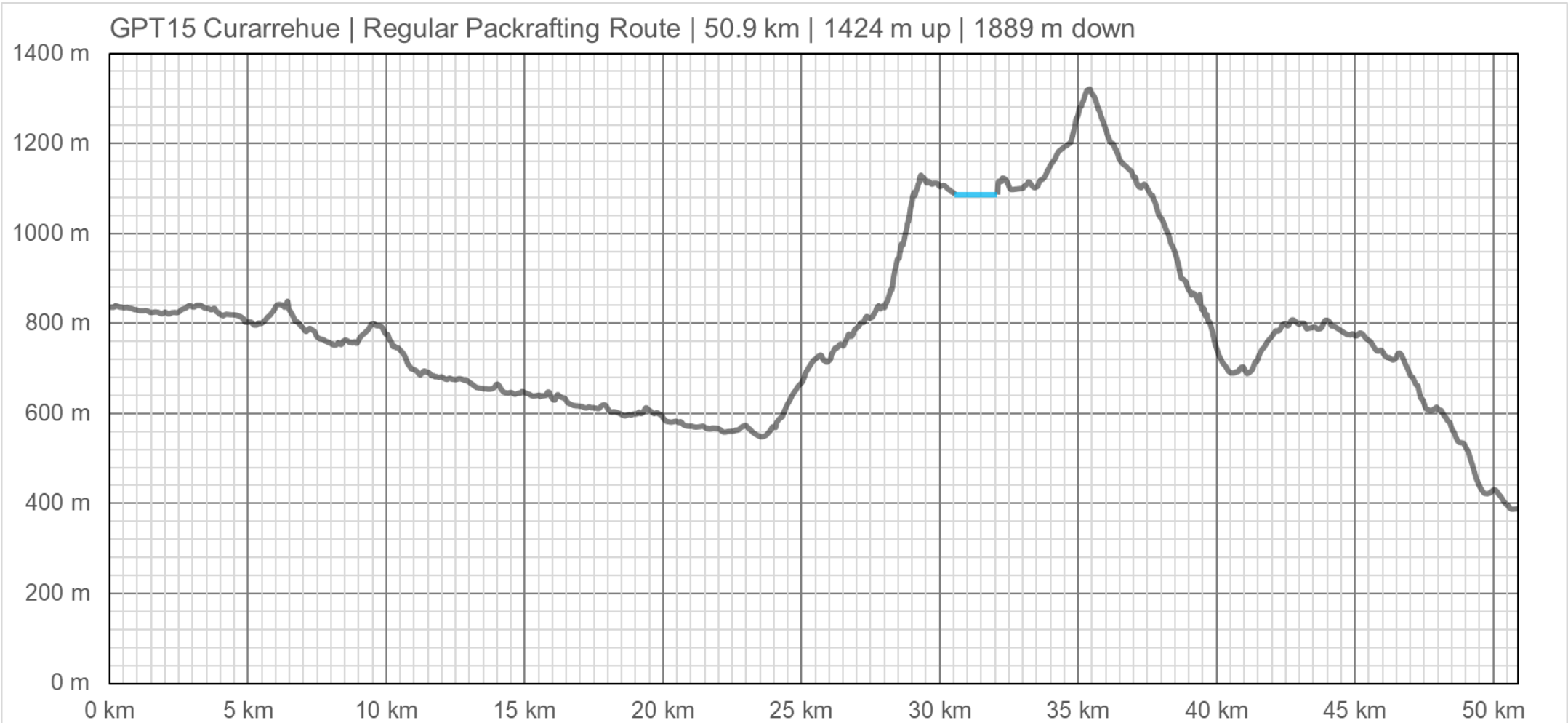
Table 64: GPT15 Section Summary

Satellite Image 38:GPT15

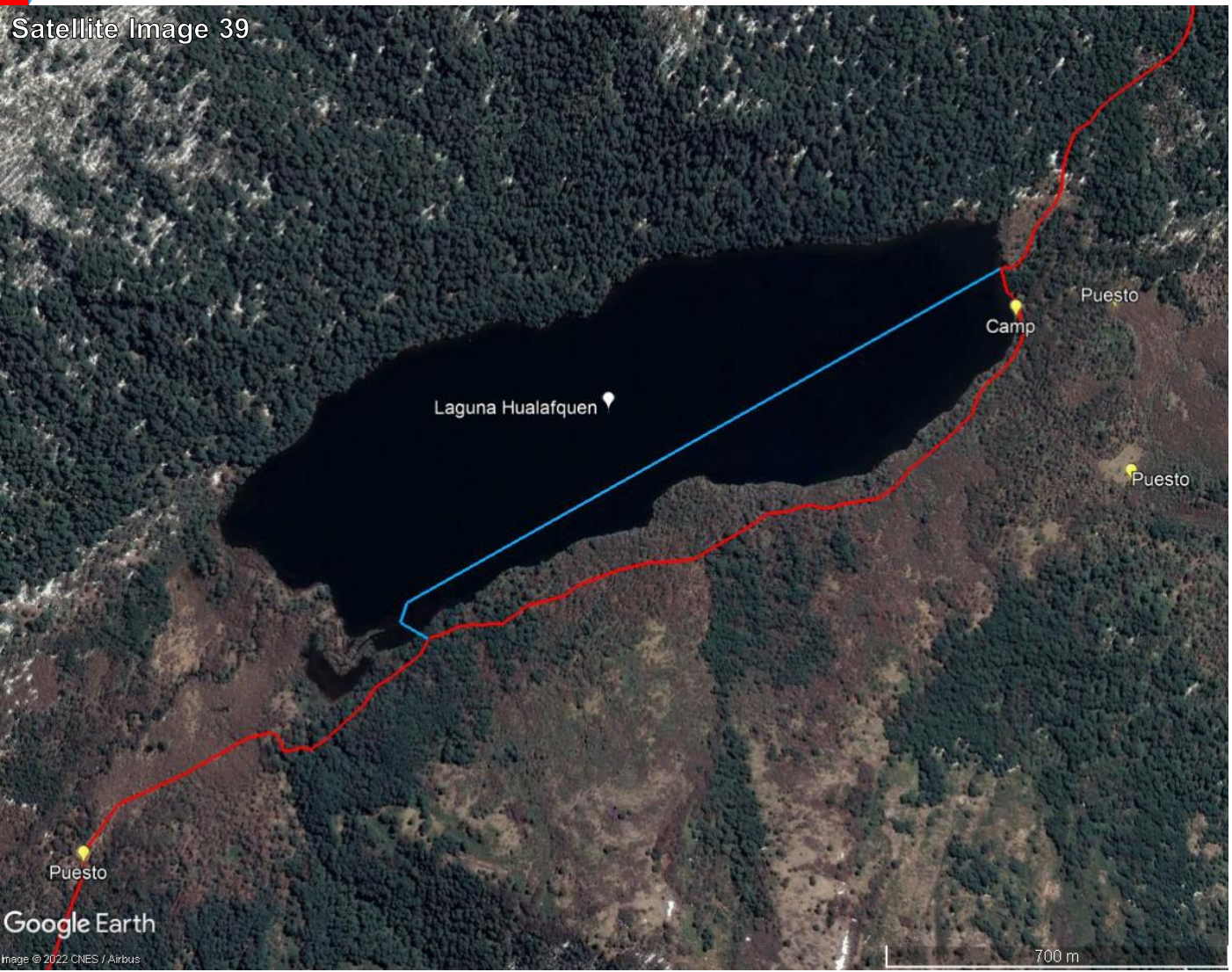




Elevation Profile 25: GPT15 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 26: GPT15 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Laguna Hualafquen	
Part	-
Section	GPT15
Size	2 km
Wind Direction	Unknown
Wind Intensity	Often Calm
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 65: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

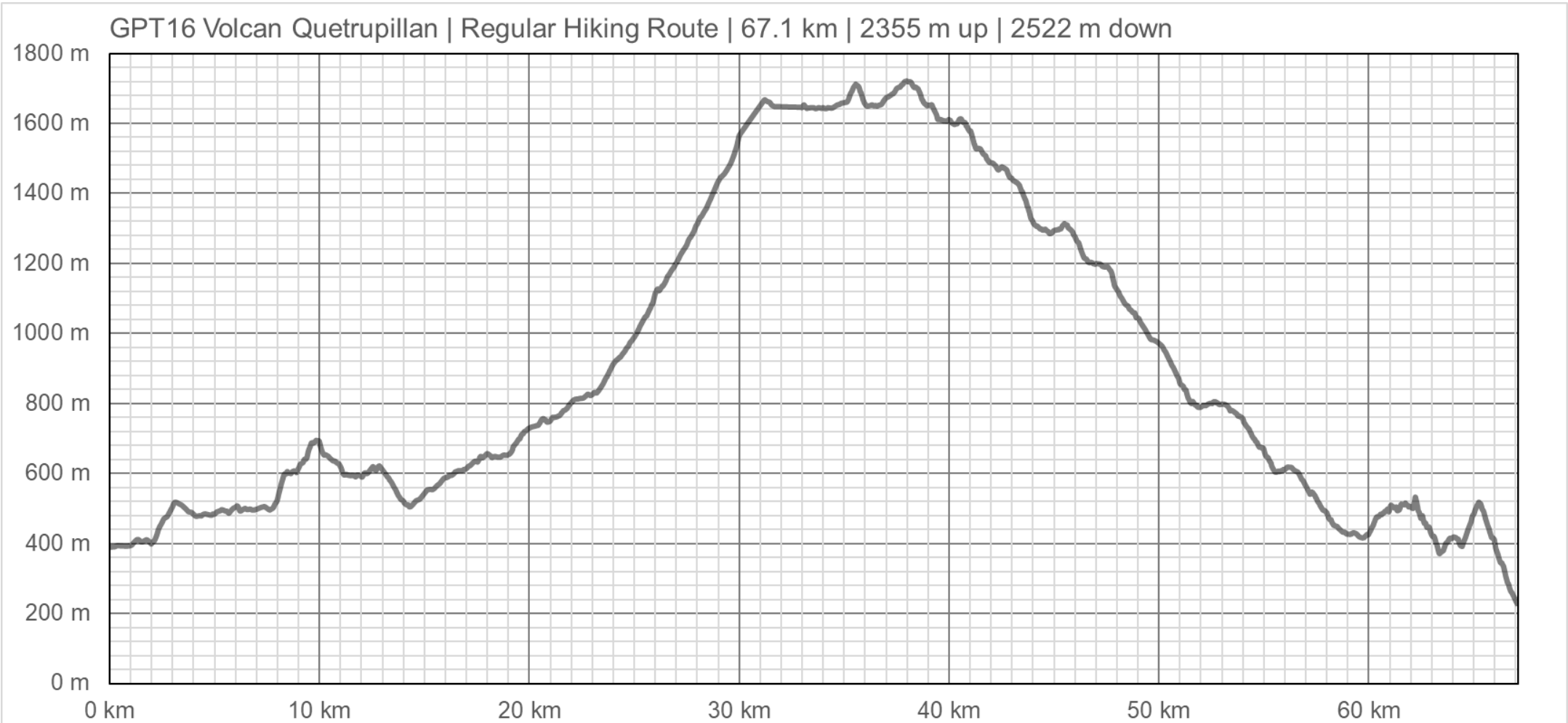
Add comment.

2.5.16 GPT16: Volcán Quetrupillan

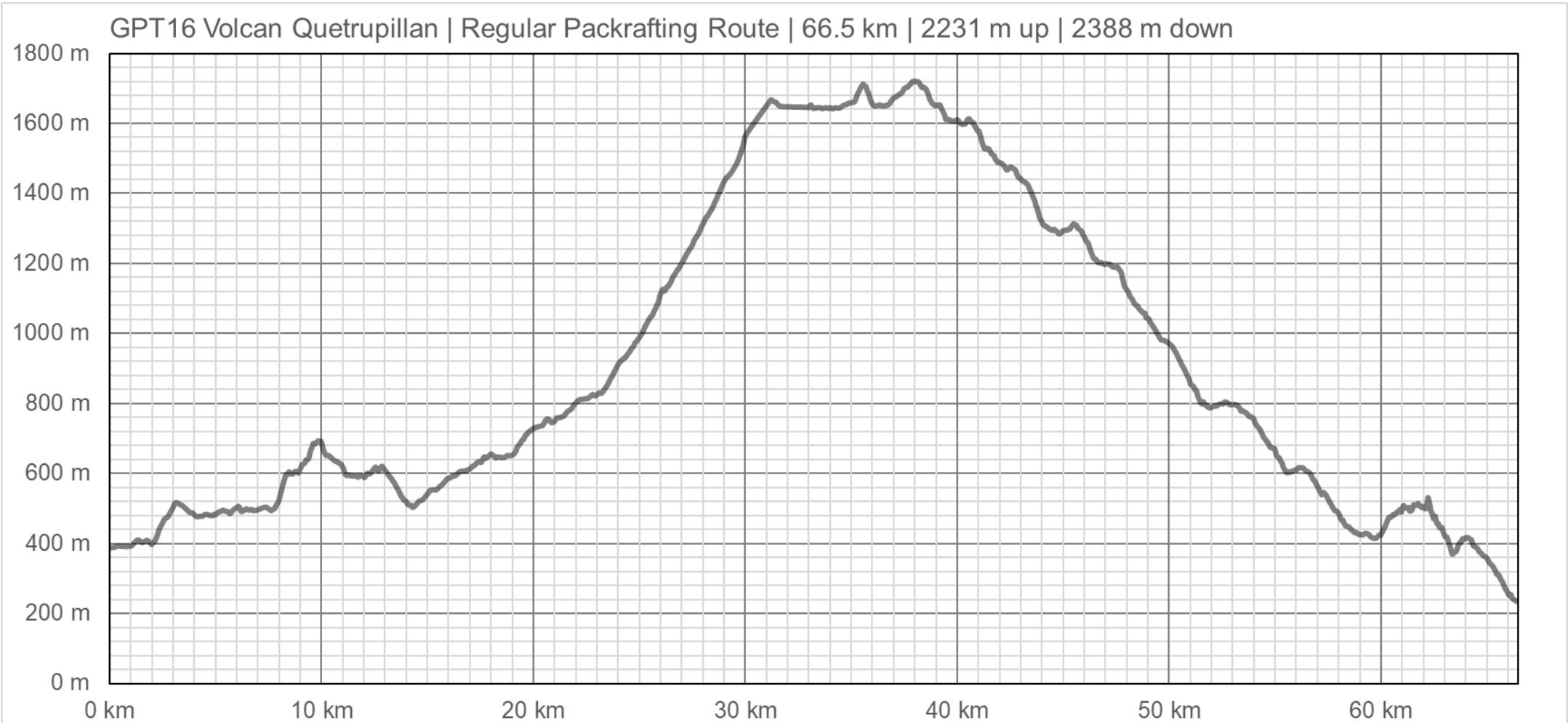
GPT16: Volcan Quetrupillan				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	C: Zona Pehuenche		Total	**67.1 km**	**20 h**	**66.5 km**	**20 h**
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX) & Los Ríos (XIV)		Trails (TL)	14.3 km	21.4%	14.3 km	21.6%
Start	Currarehue		Minor Roads (MR)	44.9 km	66.9%	44.3 km	66.6%
Finish	Reyehueico		Primary Roads (PR)	2.0 km	3.0%	2.0 km	3.0%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	5.9 km	8.7%	5.9 km	8.8%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT15, GPT17H, GPT17P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	124 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: In poor or instable weather the exposed volcanic plateau from km 27 to km 42 should be avoided.						
Character	Forest, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Hot Springs, Pehuenche						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Demanding Navigation, Right-of-Way Disputes						

Table 66: GPT15 Section Summary


Satellite Image 40:GPT16
Curarrehue
GPT16 Start
Licanray
Conaripe
GPT16 Packrafting End
GPT16 Hiking End
Liquine
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



Elevation Profile 27: GPT16 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 28: GPT16 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Laguna Azul	
Part	-
Section	GPT16
Size	2 km
Wind Direction	Unknown
Wind Intensity	Often Calm
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Sightseeing
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 67: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

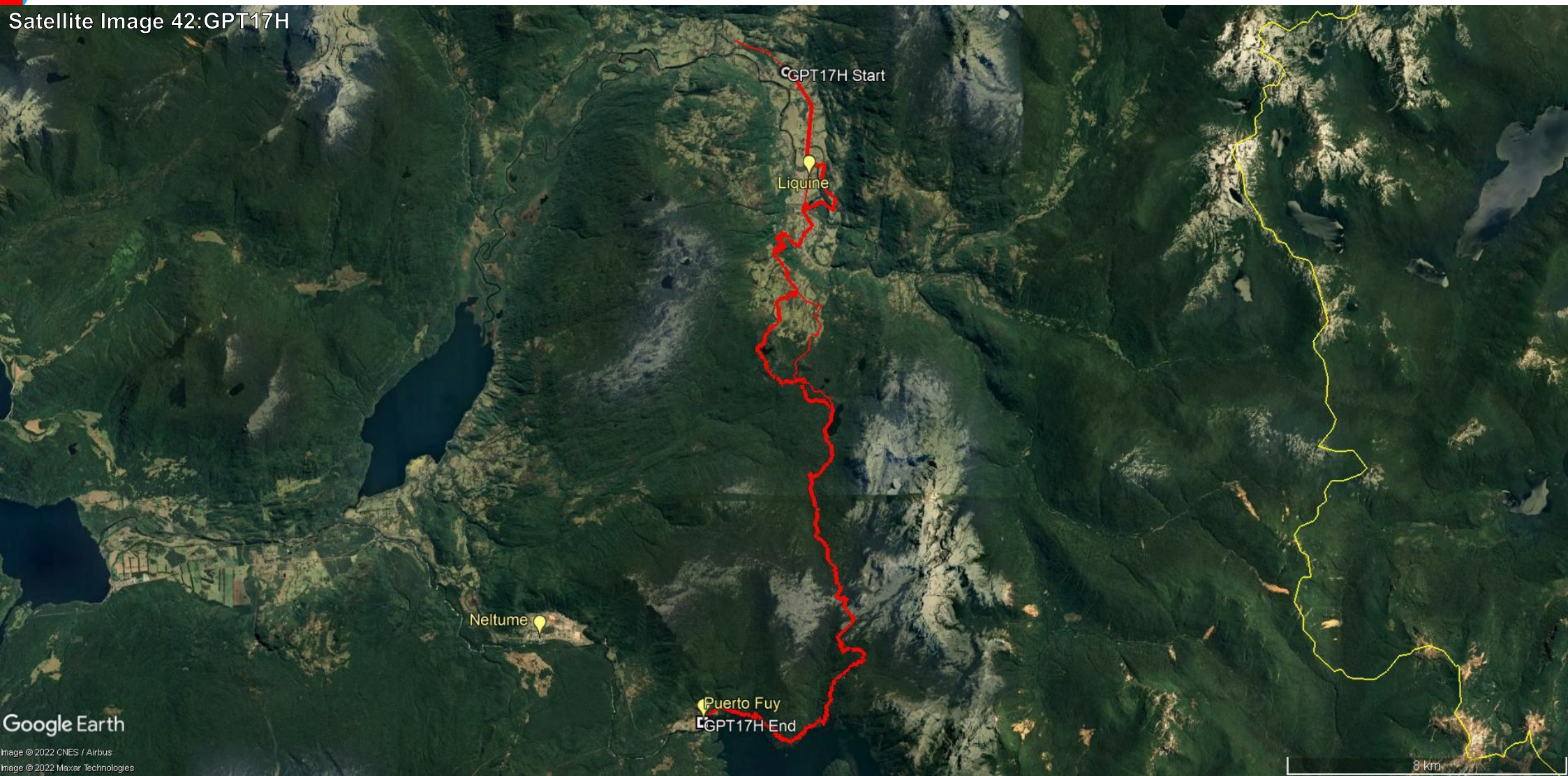
Add comment.

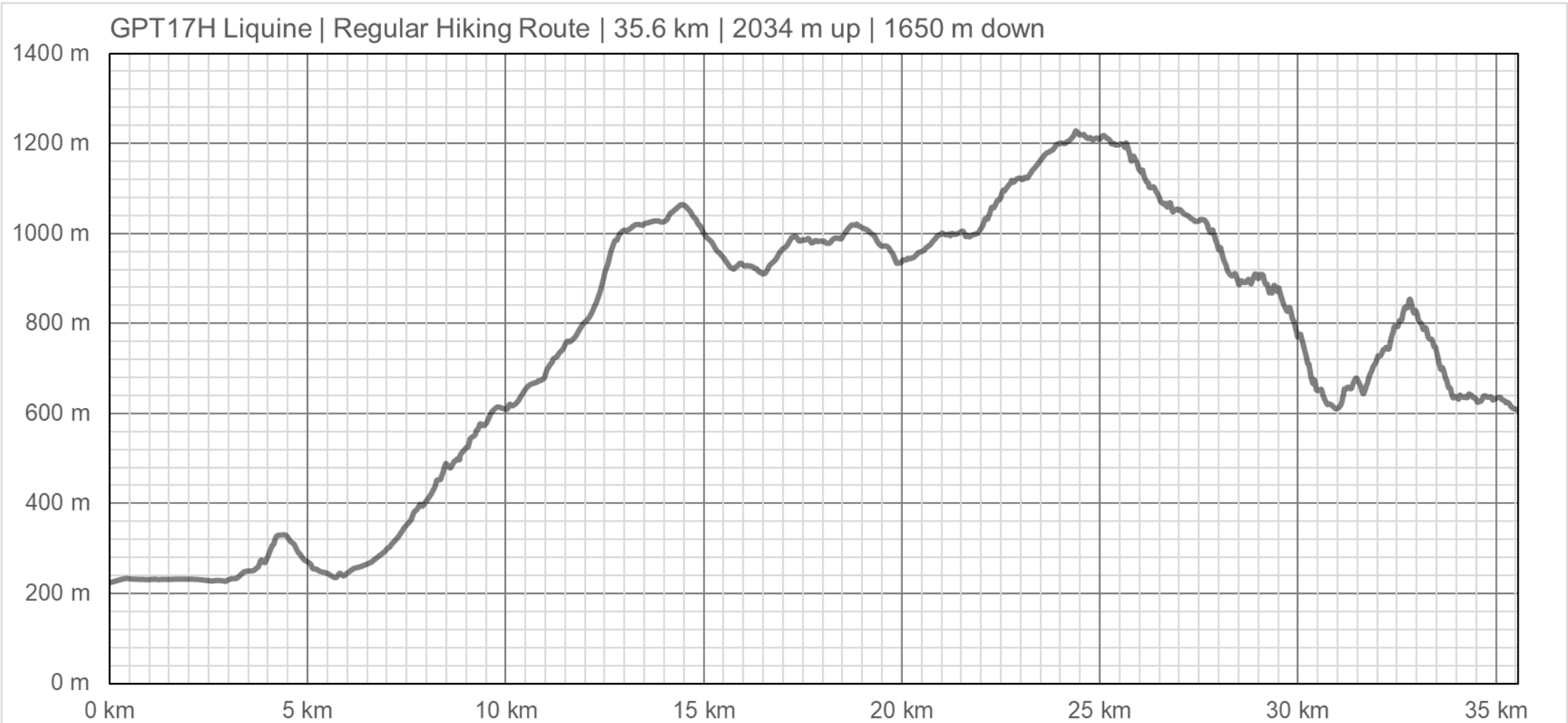
2.5.17 GPT17H: Liquiñe

GPT17H: Liquine				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total	**35.6 km**	**13 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV)		Trails (TL)	23.5 km	66.2%	-	-
Start	Reyehueico		Minor Roads (MR)	8.2 km	23.0%	-	-
Finish	Puerto Fuy		Primary Roads (PR)	3.8 km	10.8%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT16, GPT17P, GPT18		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	8 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Route became partly overgrown.						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Hot Springs, Farmland, Pehuenche						
Challenges	-						

Table 68: GPT17H Section Summary

Satellite Image 42:GPT17H





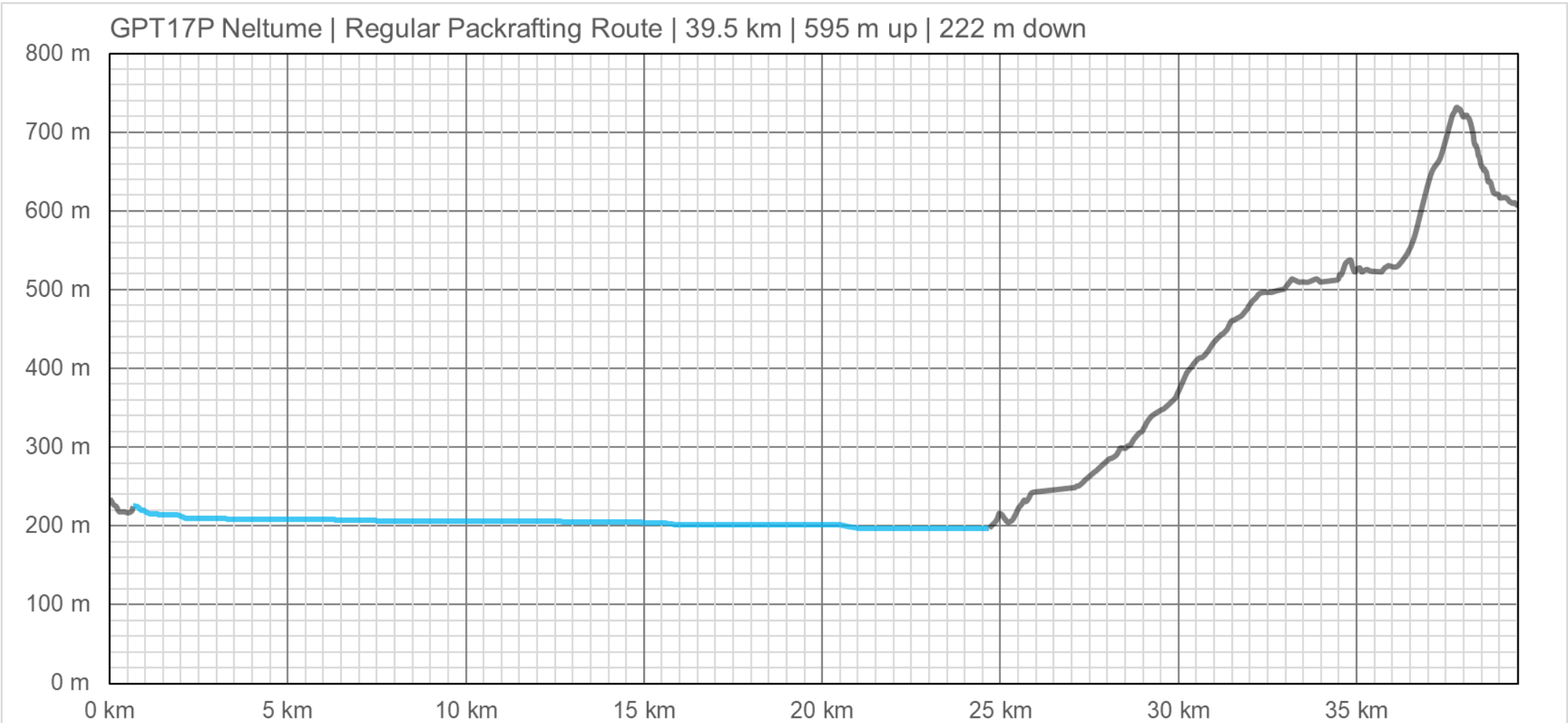
Elevation Profile 29: GPT17H Regular Hiking Route

2.5.18 GPT17P: Neltume

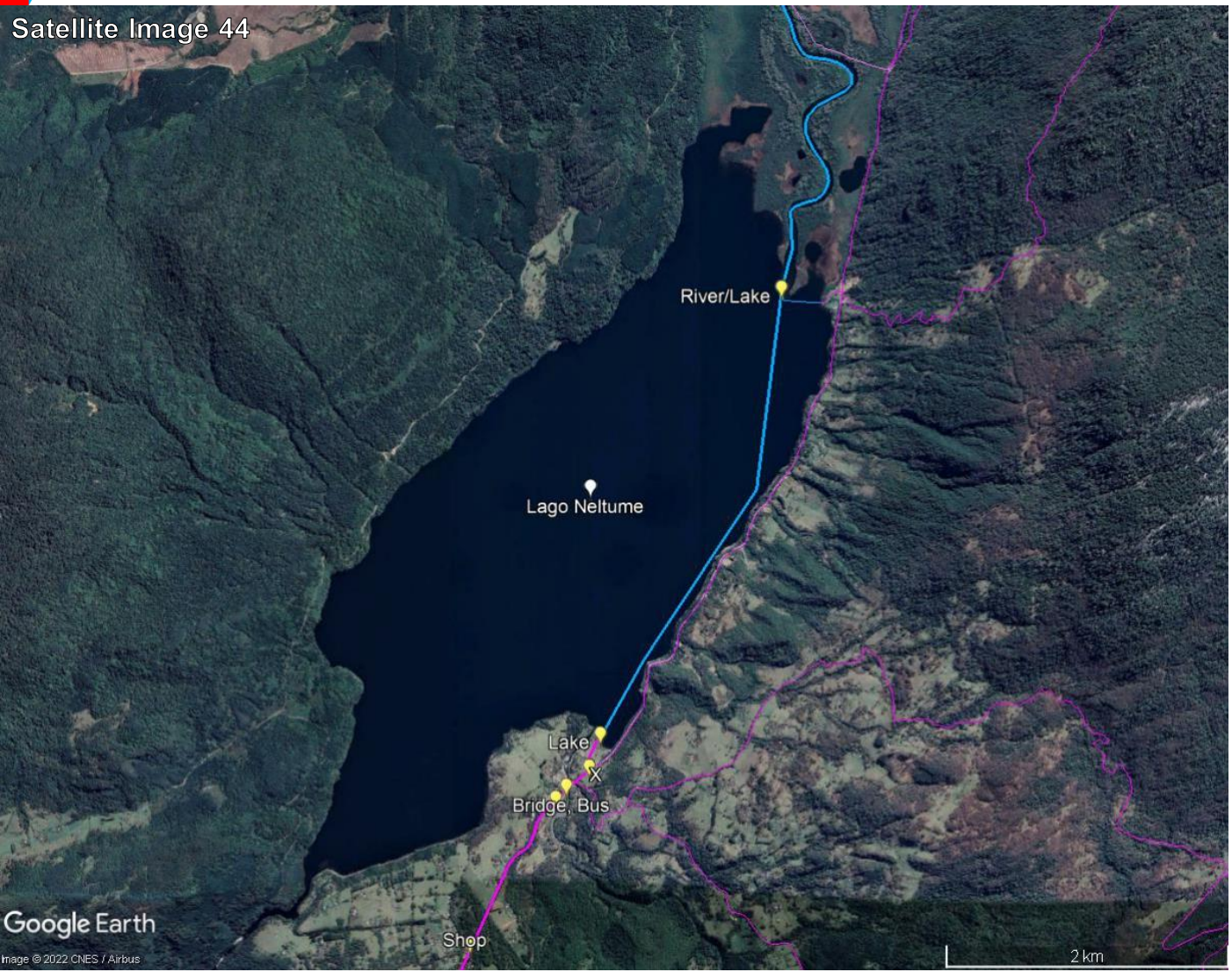
GPT17P: Neltume				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total	**-**	**-**	**39.5 km**	**10 h**
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV)		Trails (TL)	-	-	0.7 km	1.7%
Start	Reyehueico		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	5.2 km	13.2%
Finish	Puerto Fuy		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	9.4 km	23.7%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.3 km	0.7%
Traversable	Nov - May (Maybe: Sep, Oct)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT16, GPT17H, GPT18		Investigation (I)	-	-	(1.2 km)	(2.9%)
Options	171 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**24.0 km**	**60.8%**
Attraction	-	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		20.4 km	51.6%
Difficulty	-	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		3.6 km	9.2%
Direction	None	Only ↓		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Not feasible. Packrafting: In late summer Rio Cuacua may become shallow on first few km. / On Lago Neltume the predominant wind direction is NE against the southbound travel direction. Crossing early in the morning or late in the evening may be preferable.						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Pehuenche, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 69: GPT17P Section Summary


Satellite Image 43:GPT17P
Conaripe
Panguipulli
GPT17P Start
Liquine
Neltume
Puerto Fuy
GPT17P End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



Elevation Profile 30: GPT17P Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Lago Neltume	
Part	-
Section	GPT17P
Size	6 km
Wind Direction	Northbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Ample
Travel Direction	Preferably Southbound
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 70: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.



Lake: Lago Pellaifa	
Part	-
Section	GPT17P
Size	5 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Few
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 71: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.

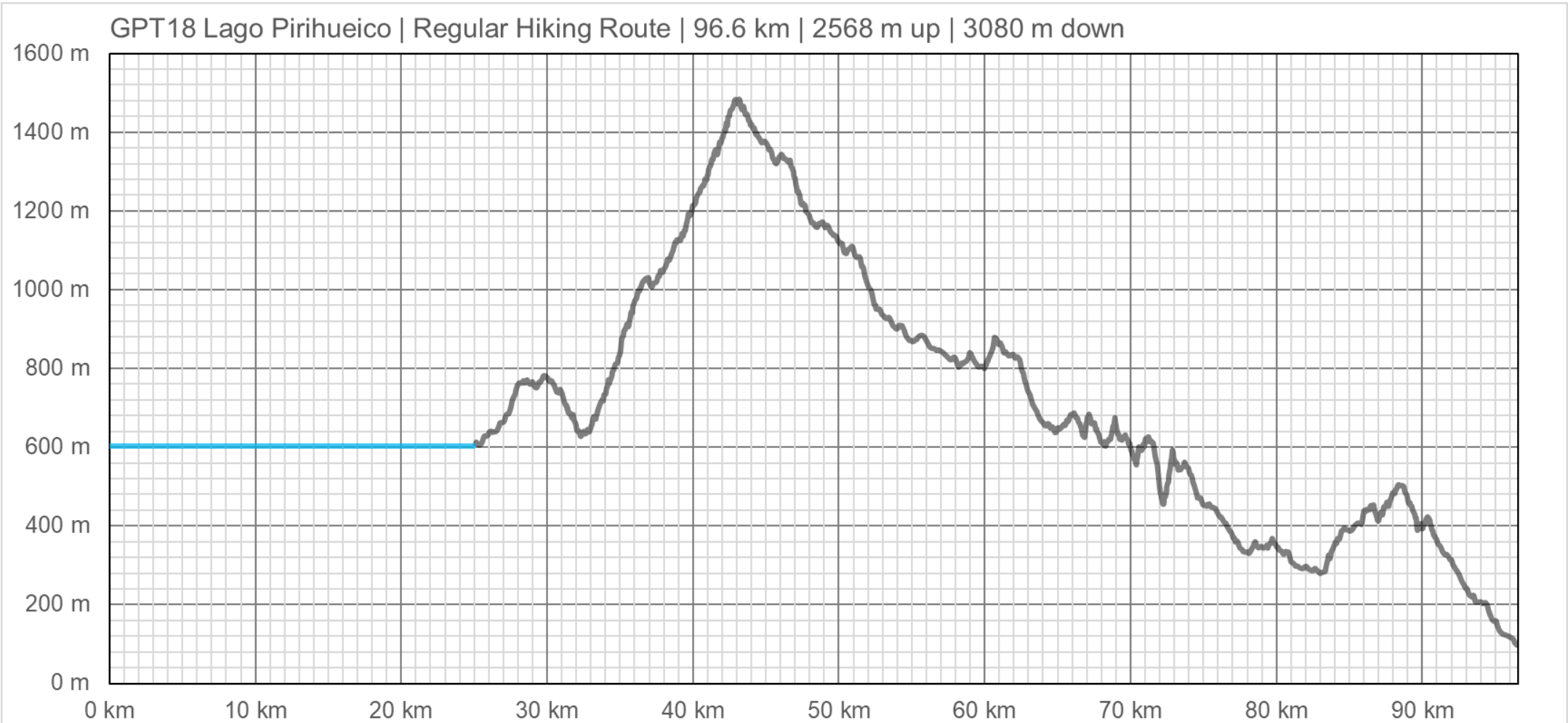
2.5.19 GPT18: Lago Pirihueico

GPT18: Lago Pirihueico					Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total		**71.5 km**	**22 h**	**87.0 km**	**26 h**
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV)		Trails (TL)		6.3 km	8.8%	6.4 km	7.3%
Start	Puerto Fuy		Minor Roads (MR)		64.3 km	90.0%	57.8 km	66.4%
Finish	Puerto Maihue		Primary Roads (PR)		0.9 km	1.2%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)		-	-	0.4 km	0.5%
Traversable	Dec - Apr (Maybe: Oct, Nov, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)		-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)		(25.1 km)	(26.0%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT17H, GPT17P, GPT19		Investigation (I)		-	-	-	-
Options	144 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)		-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting			Total on Water		**22.4 km**	**25.8%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	4 (of 5)			River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)			Lake (LK)		22.4 km	25.8%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑			Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: From hiking km 64 to km 75 the route is overgrown. / Regular hiking route avoids right-of-way conflicts that are frequent on other routes. / Option 2 is better maintained but should only be used to exit this section in case of an emergency due to right-of-way conflicts. Packrafting: On Lago Pirihueico the predominant wind direction is SE in southbound travel direction.							
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Settlers, Lake Packrafting							
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Right-of-Way Disputes							

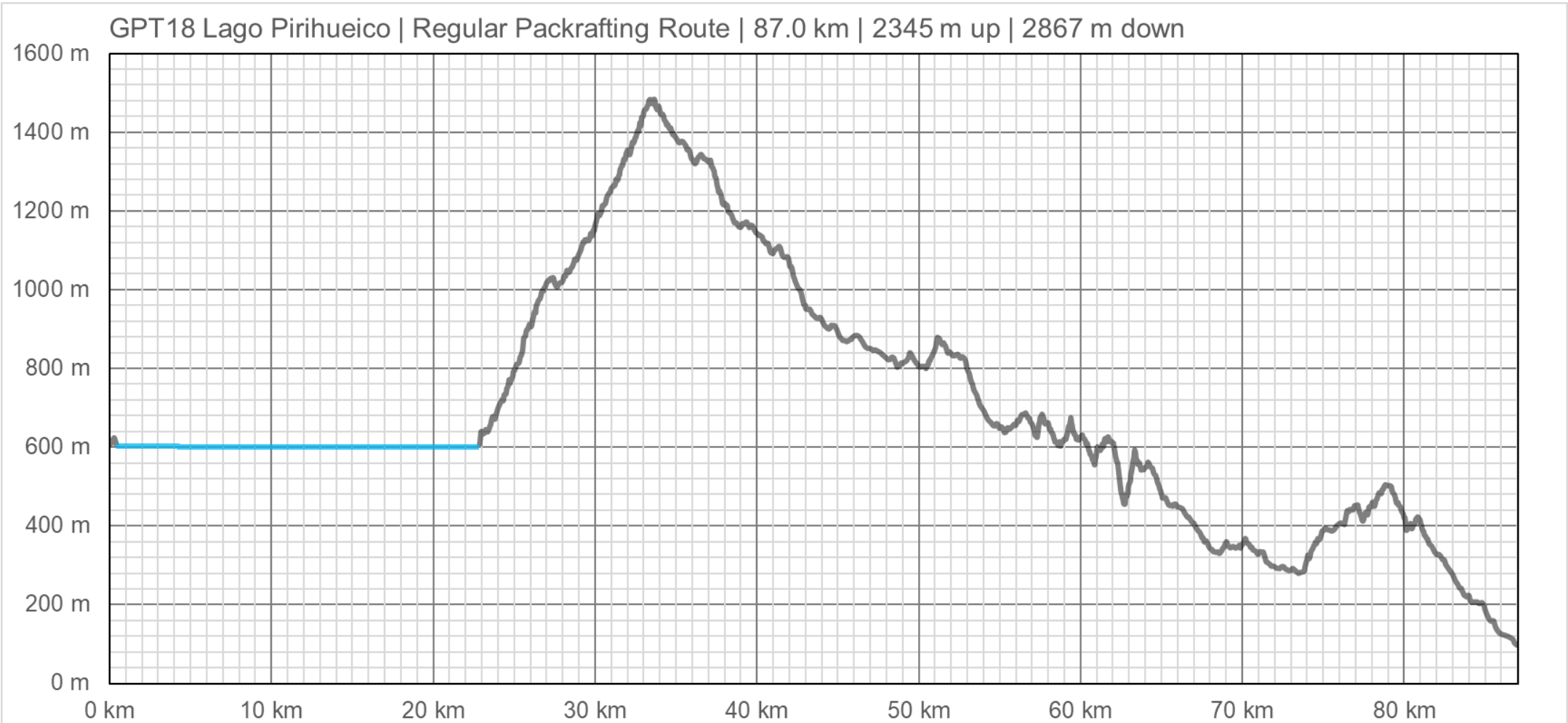
Table 72: GPT18 Section Summary

Satellite Image 46:GPT18

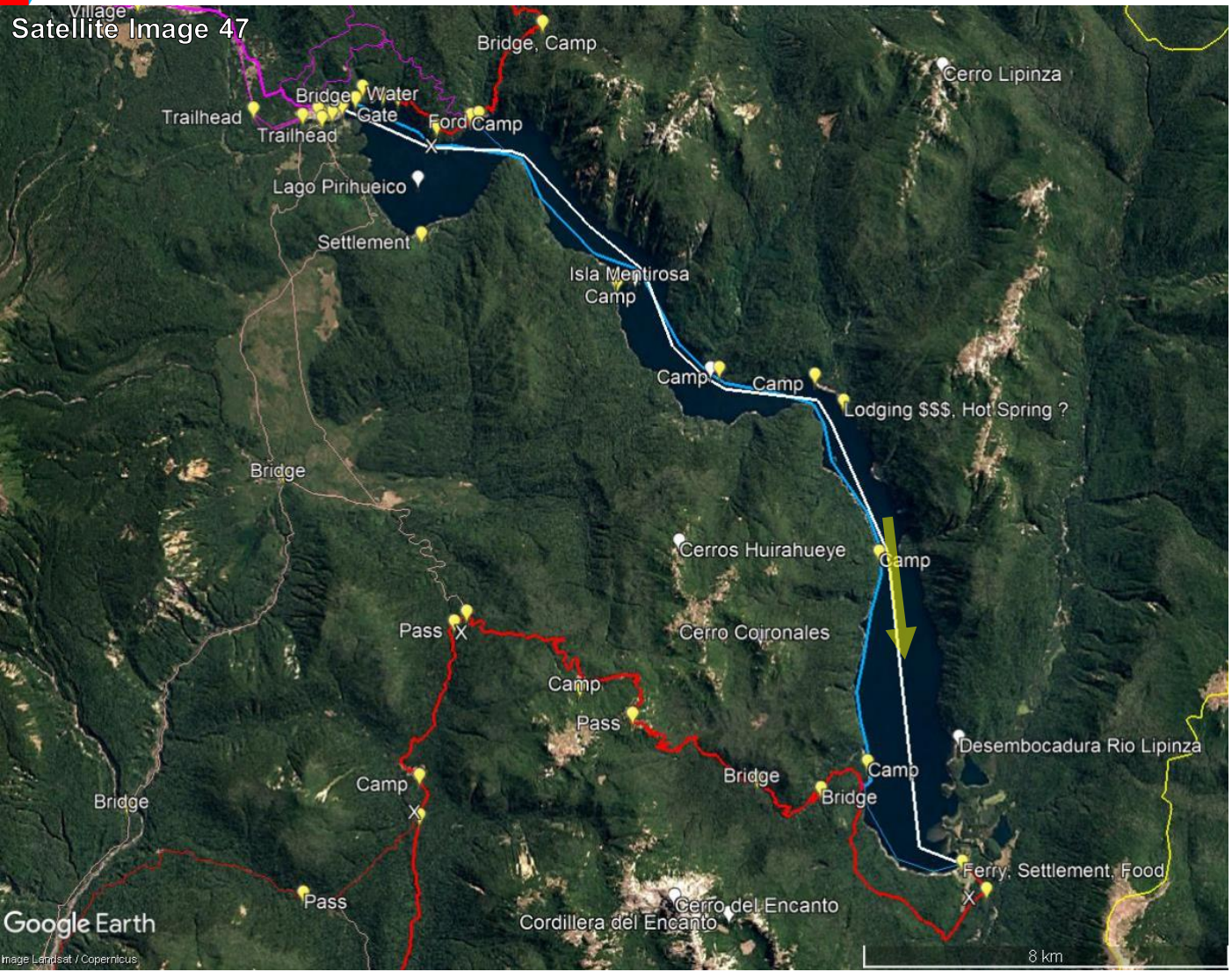




Elevation Profile 31: GPT18 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 32: GPT18 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Lago Pirihueico	
Part	-
Section	GPT18
Size	24 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Few
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Any
Sail	Beneficial
Machete	Beneficial

Table 73: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

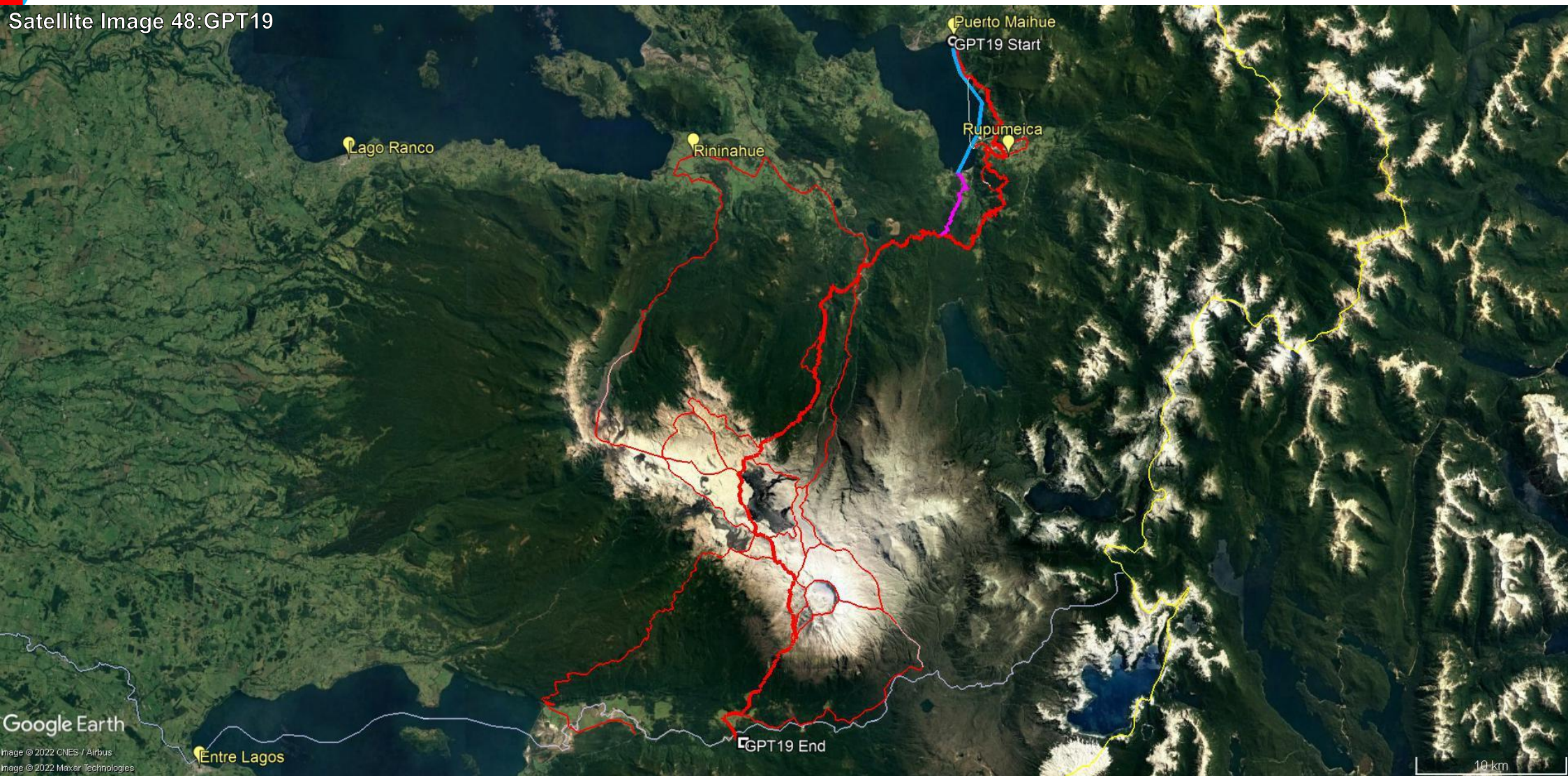
Add comment.

2.5.20 GPT19: Volcán Puyehue

GPT19: Volcan Puyehue				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total	**83.4 km**	**29 h**	**70.1 km**	**23 h**
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV) & Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	5.4 km	6.5%	5.4 km	7.7%
Start	Puerto Maihue		Minor Roads (MR)	55.7 km	66.8%	34.0 km	48.6%
Finish	Anticura (CONAF)		Primary Roads (PR)	2.2 km	2.6%	2.2 km	3.1%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	20.1 km	24.1%	18.9 km	26.9%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT18, GPT20		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	216 km (6 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**9.6 km**	**13.8%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		9.6 km	13.8%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: In poor or instable weather the exposed volcanic plateau from km 55 to km 74 should be avoided. / Option 6 is an emergency descent only in case of volcanic activity or injury.						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Hot Springs, Farmland, Settlers, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Demanding Navigation, Lack of Drinking Water						

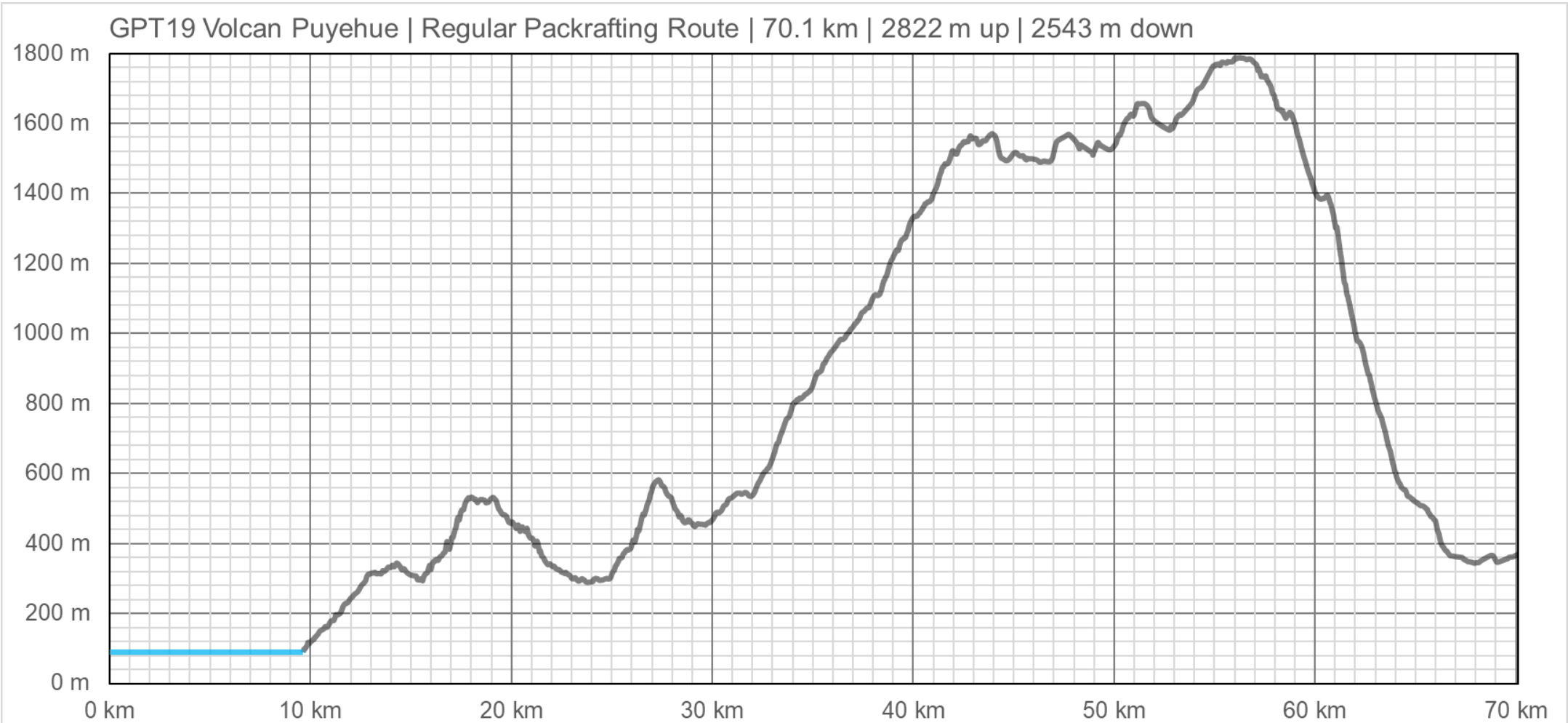
Table 74: GPT19 Section Summary

Satellite Image 48:GPT19

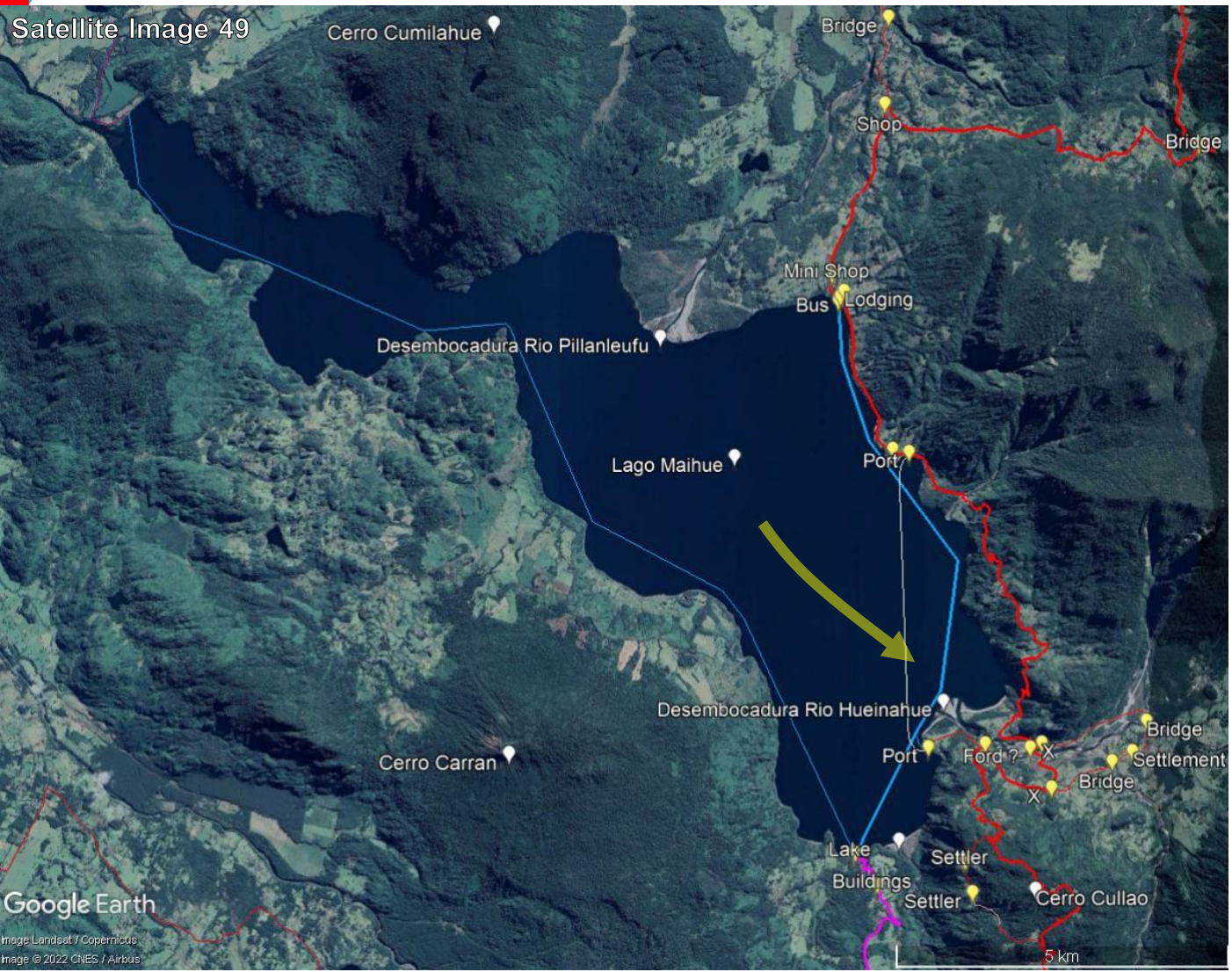




Elevation Profile 33: GPT19 Regular Hiking Route



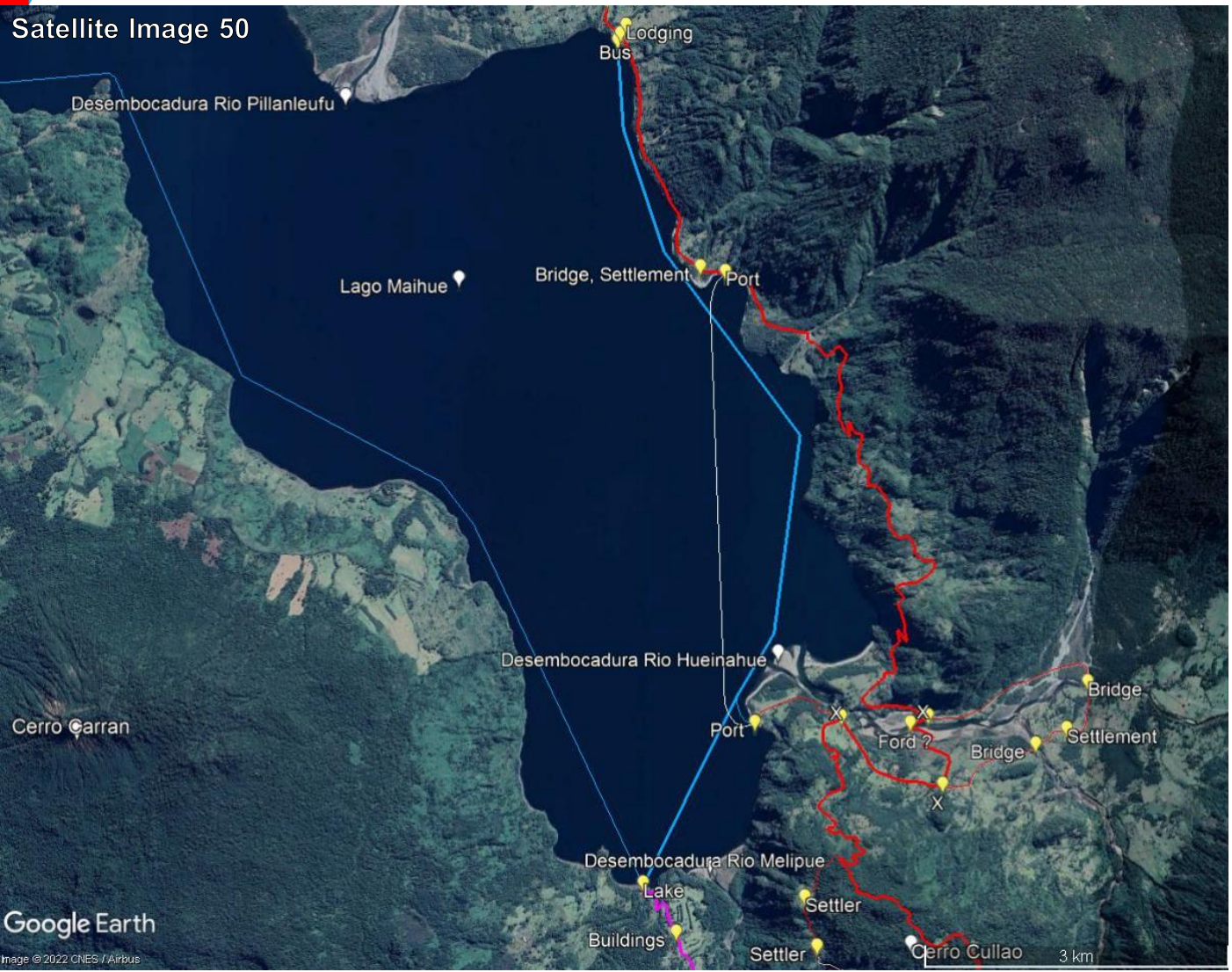
Elevation Profile 34: GPT19 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Lago Maihue	
Part	West
Section	GPT19
Size	17 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Preferably Westbound
Packraft	Preferably Decked
Sail	Recommended
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 75: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.



Lake: Lago Maihue	
Part	East
Section	GPT19
Size	17 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Preferably Westbound
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 76: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

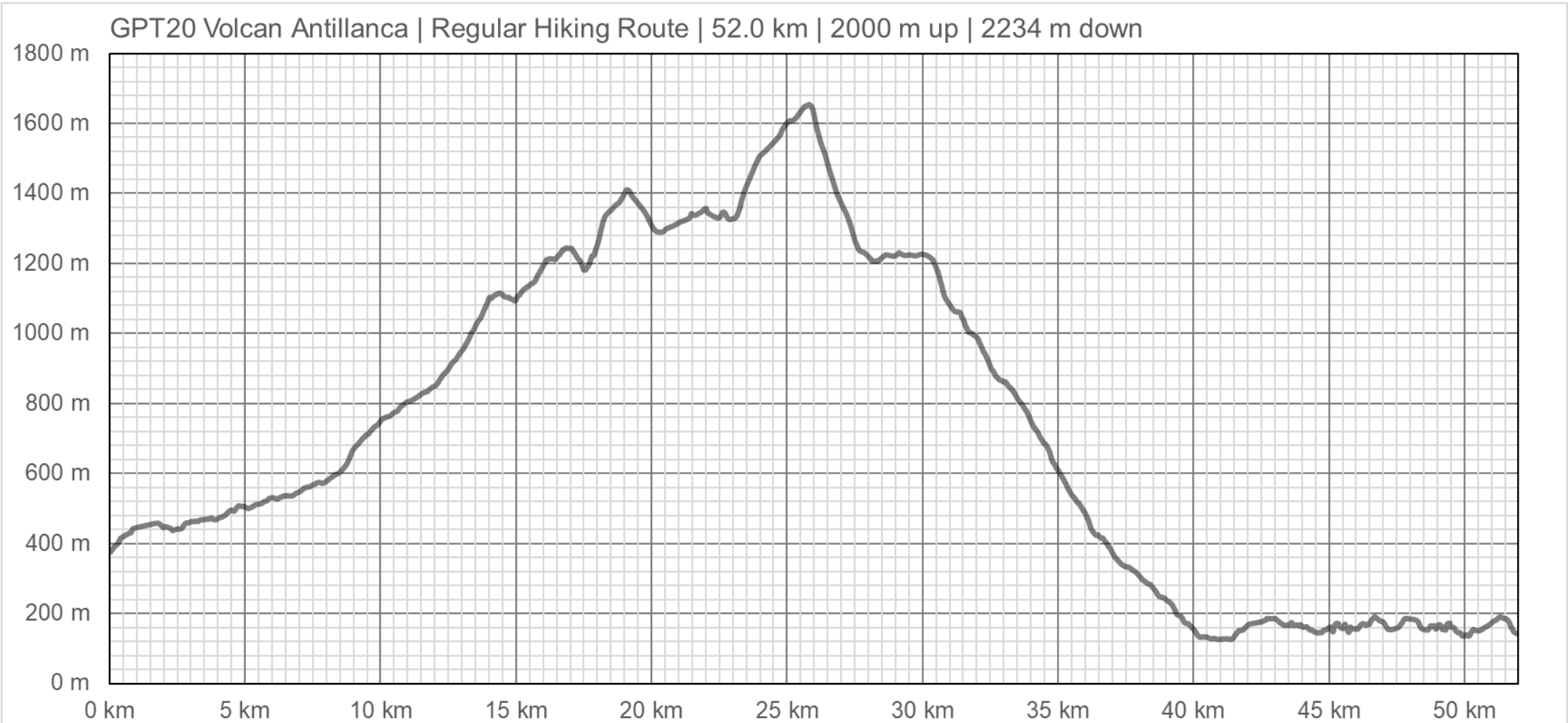
Add comment.

2.5.21 GPT20: Volcán Antillanca

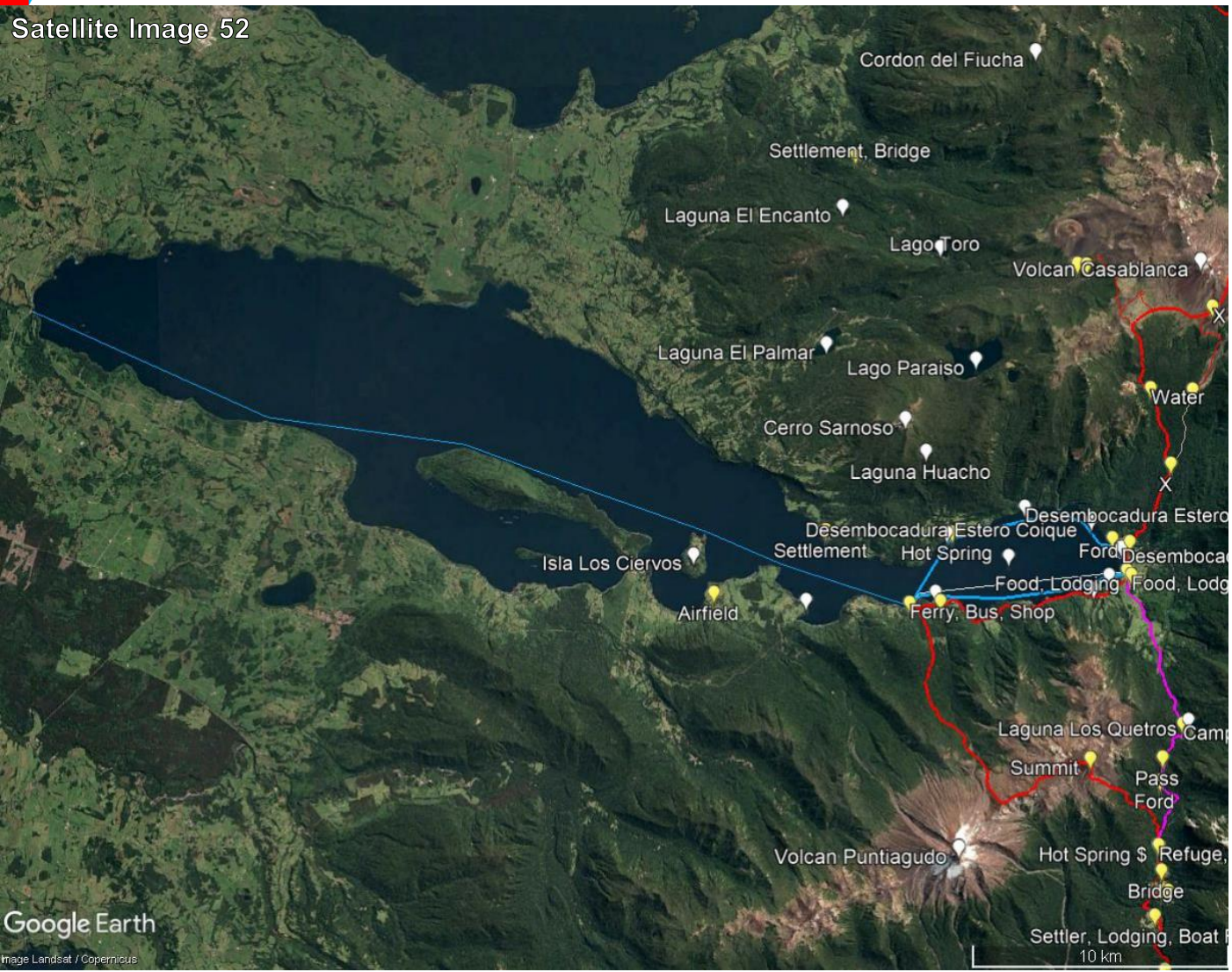
GPT20: Volcan Antillanca				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total	**52.0 km**	**17 h**	**51.2 km**	**17 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	12.1 km	23.2%	10.9 km	21.2%
Start	Anticura (CONAF)		Minor Roads (MR)	24.6 km	47.3%	14.1 km	27.5%
Finish	Las Gaviotas		Primary Roads (PR)	3.0 km	5.8%	3.0 km	5.9%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	12.3 km	23.7%	12.7 km	24.9%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT19, GPT21		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	34 km (4 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**10.5 km**	**20.5%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		10.5 km	20.5%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Significant parts of the minor road from km 3 to km 17 and the trail from km 28 to km 35 are poorly maintained and became overgrown.						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Volcanic Terrain, Summit Ascents, Settlers, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Lack of Drinking Water						

Table 77: GPT20 Section Summary


Satellite Image 51:GPT20
GPT20 Start
Termas de Puyehue
El Poncho
GPT20 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



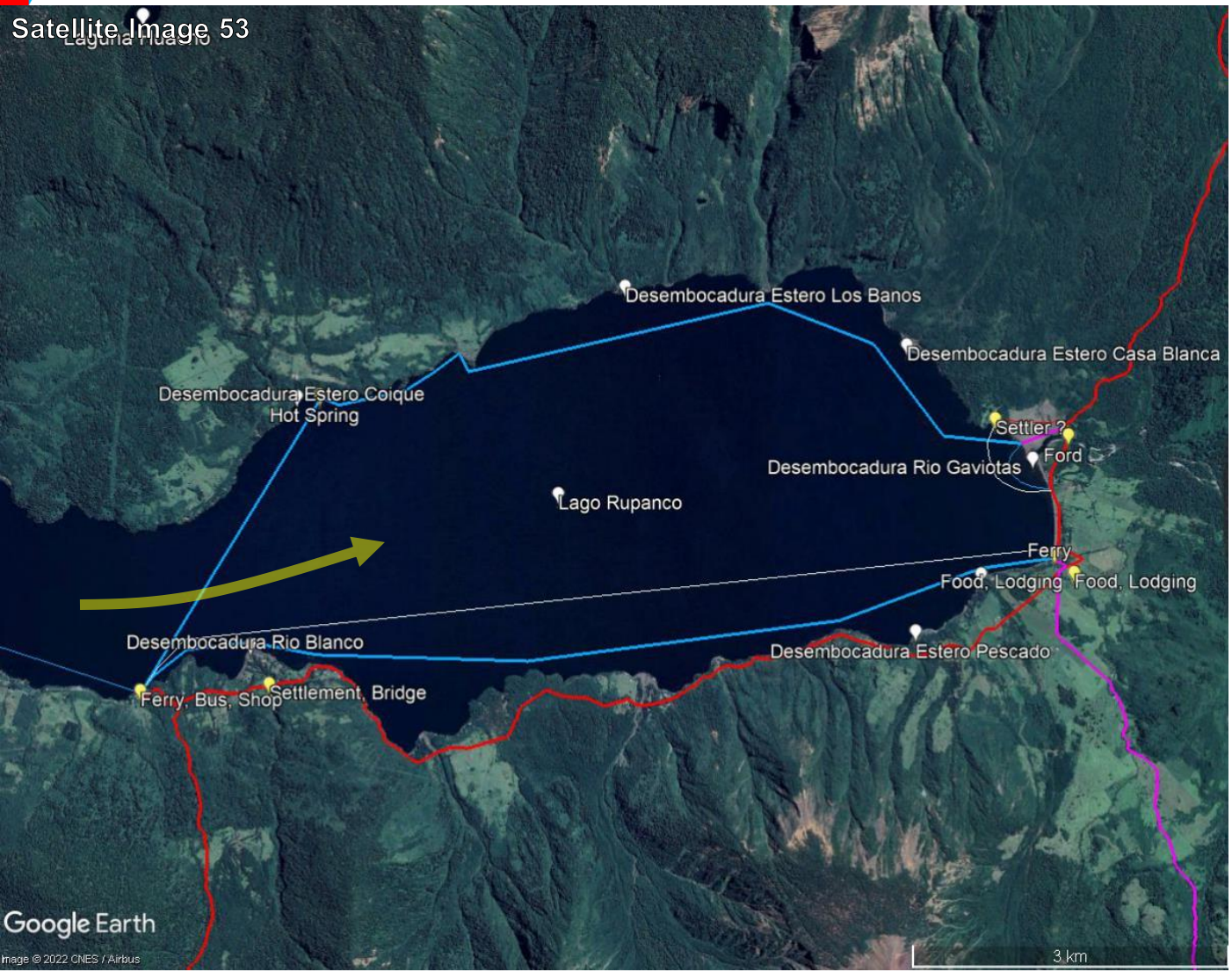
Elevation Profile 35: GPT20 Regular Route



Lake: Lago Rupanco	
Part	West
Section	GPT20, GPT21
Size	45 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Preferably Westbound
Packraft	Preferably Decked
Sail	Recommended
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 78: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.



Lake: Lago Rupanco	
Part	East
Section	GPT20, GPT21
Size	45 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Intermittent
Travel Direction	Preferably Westbound
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 79: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

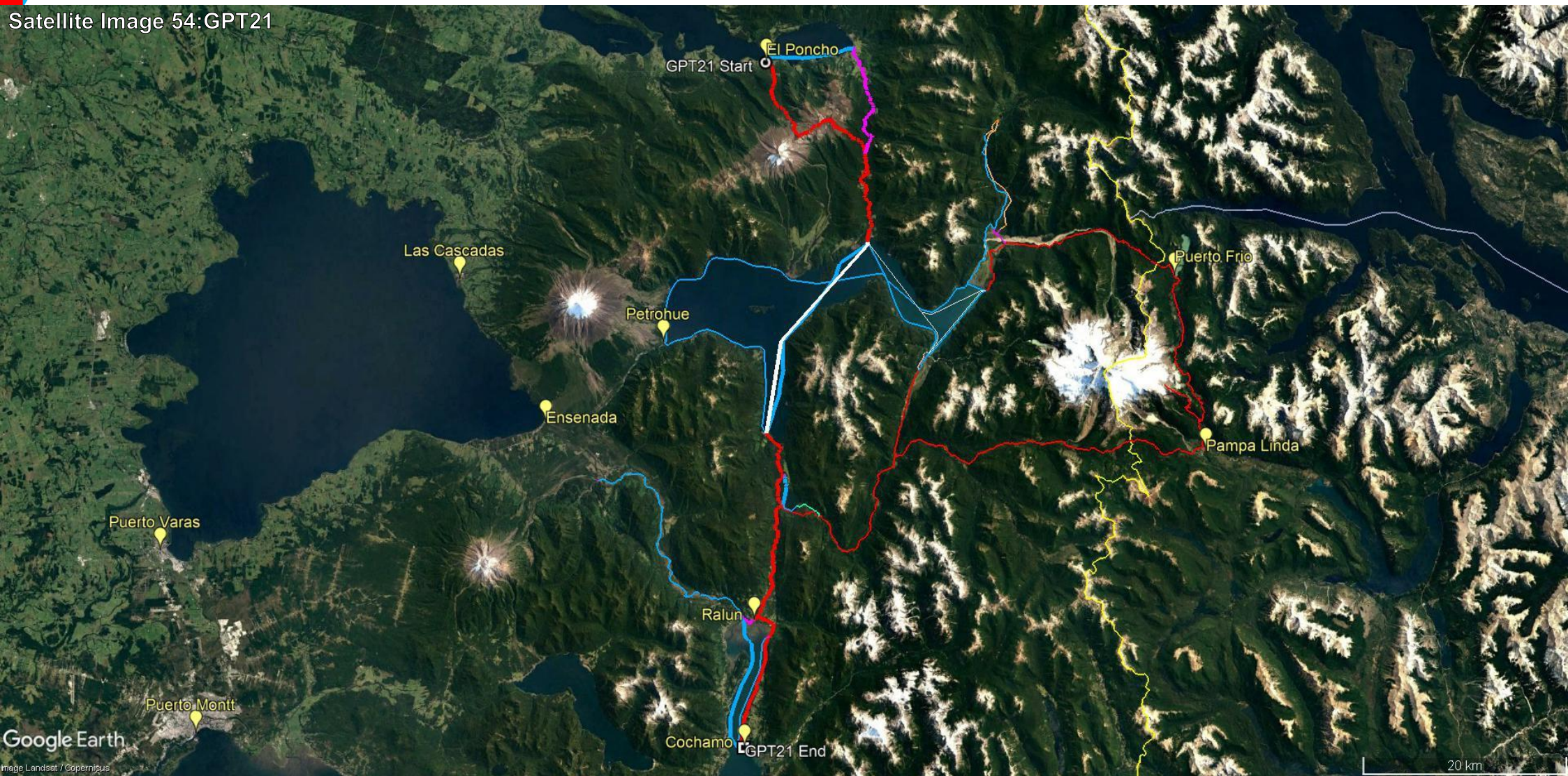
Add comment.

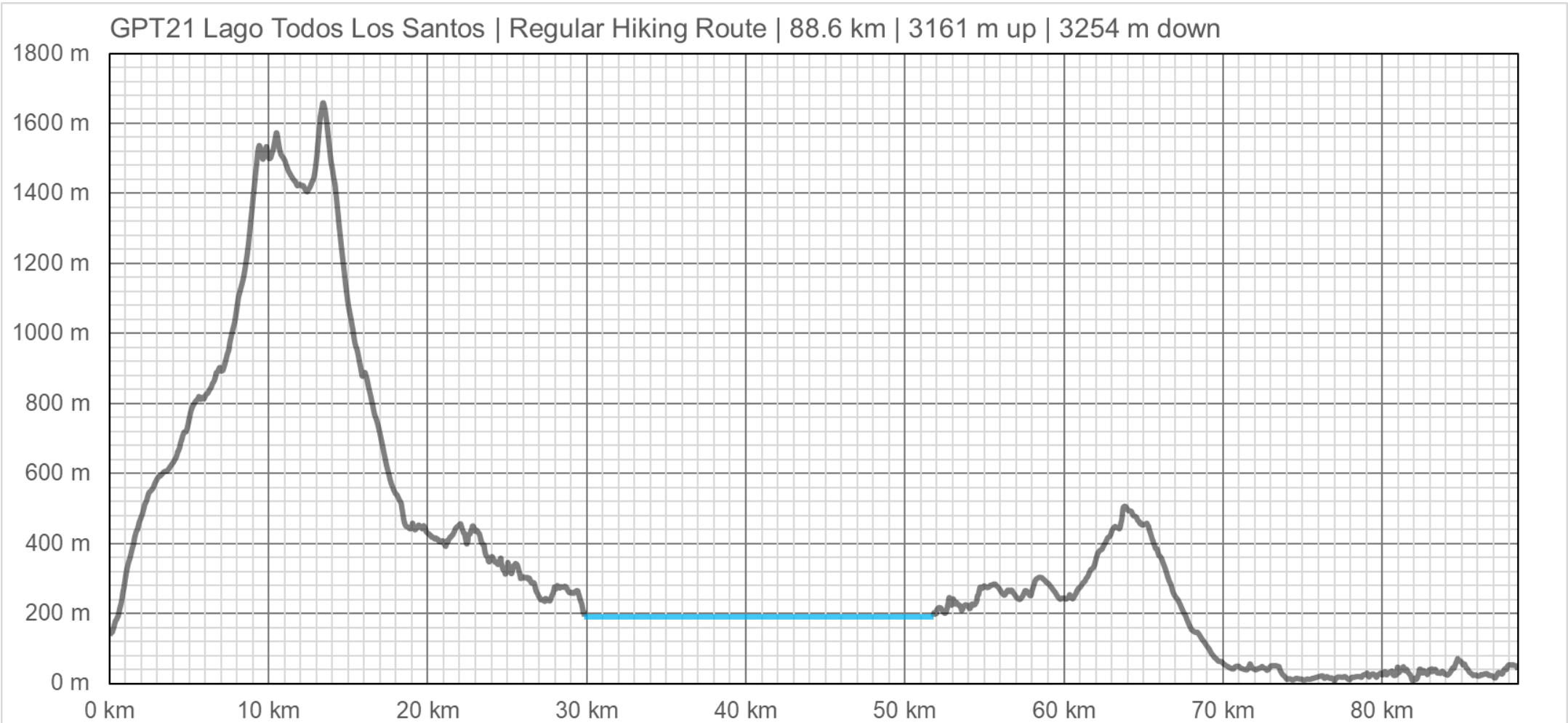
2.5.22 GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos

GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total	**66.6 km**	**23 h**	**93.8 km**	**28 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	26.4 km	39.6%	27.0 km	28.8%
Start	Las Gaviotas		Minor Roads (MR)	16.2 km	24.3%	16.2 km	17.3%
Finish	Cochamó		Primary Roads (PR)	15.0 km	22.6%	2.0 km	2.1%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	9.0 km	13.6%	0.7 km	0.7%
Traversable	Oct - Apr (Maybe: Sep, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	(21.9 km)	(24.8%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT20, GPT22, GPT78H, GPT78P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	318 km (6 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**48.0 km**	**51.1%**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		2.8 km	3.0%
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		33.8 km	36.0%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		11.4 km	12.1%
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Summit Ascents, Hot Springs, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

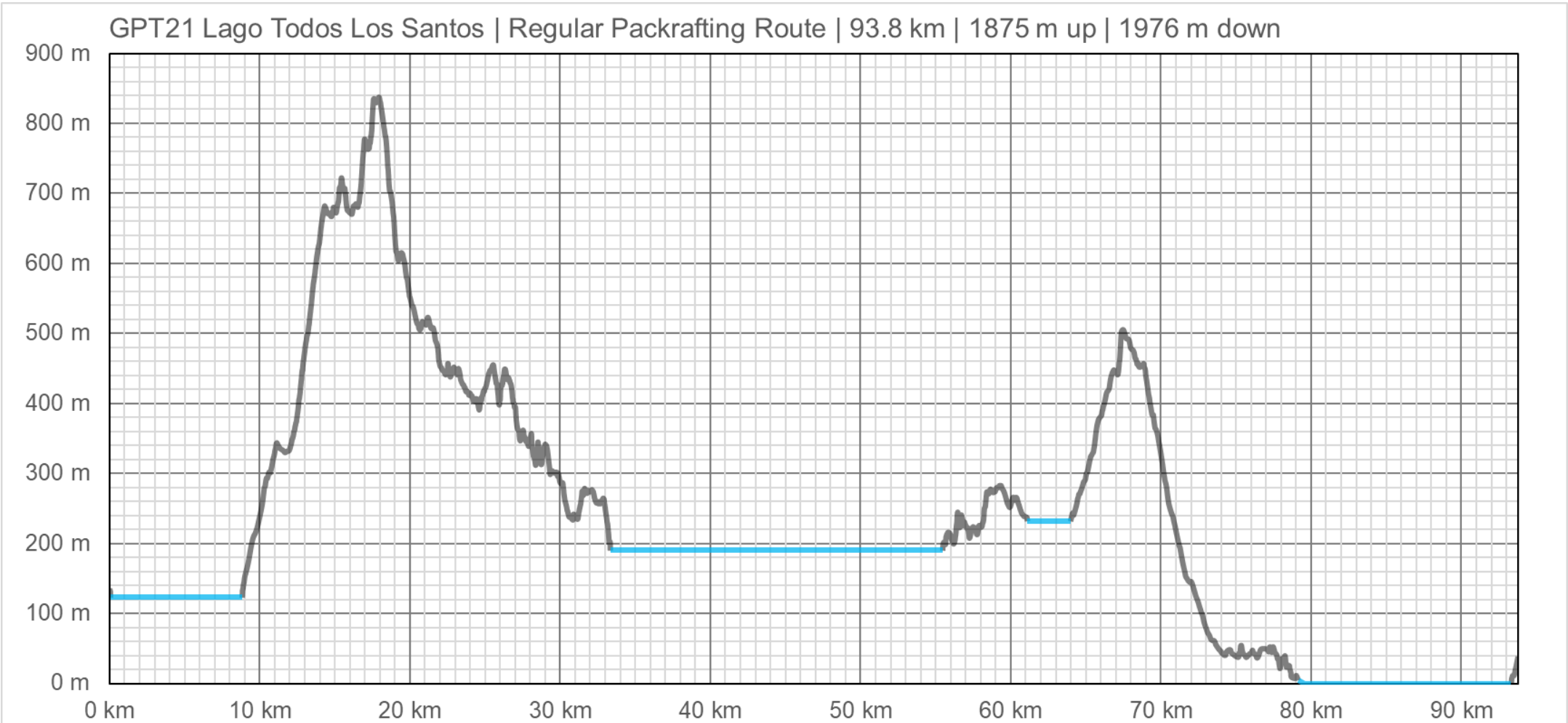
Table 80: GPT21 Section Summary

Satellite Image 54:GPT21





Elevation Profile 36: GPT21 Regular Hiking Route



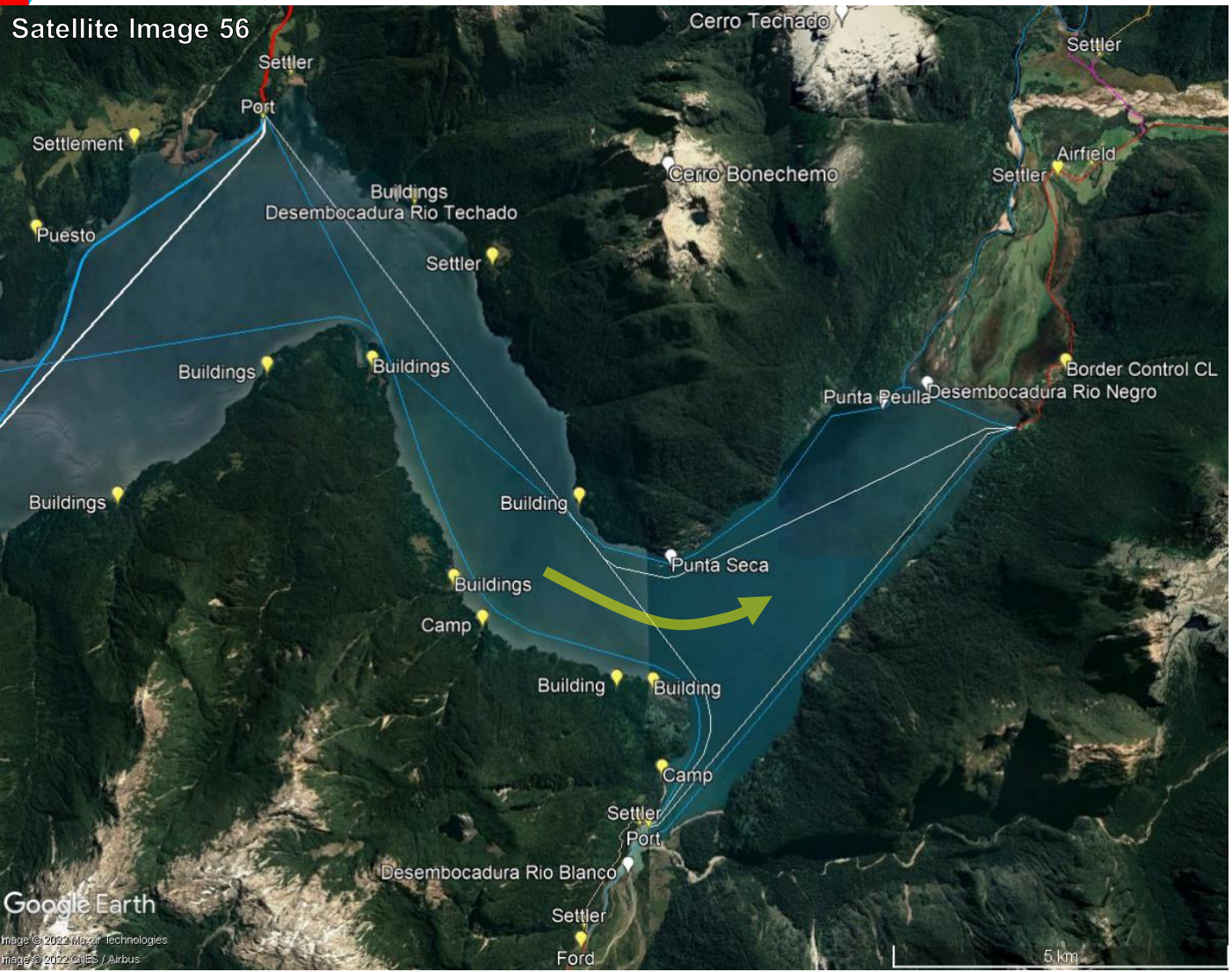
Elevation Profile 37: GPT21 Regular Packrafting Route



Lake: Lago Todos Los Santos	
Part	West
Section	GPT21
Size	35 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Few
Travel Direction	Preferably Westbound
Packraft	Preferably Decked
Sail	Recommended
Machete	Beneficial

Table 81: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.



Lake: Lago Todos Los Santos	
Part	East
Section	GPT21
Size	35 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Few
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Preferably Decked
Sail	Beneficial
Machete	Beneficial

Table 82: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.



Lake: Laguna Cayetue	
Part	-
Section	GPT21
Size	2 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Often Calm
Exits and Camps	Few
Travel Direction	Any
Packraft	Any
Sail	Irrelevant
Machete	Irrelevant

Table 83: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.



Lake: Lago Llanquihue	
Part	-
Section	GPT21
Size	42 km
Wind Direction	Westbound
Wind Intensity	Gusty
Exits and Camps	Ample
Travel Direction	Preferably Westbound
Packraft	Preferably Decked
Sail	Beneficial
Machete	Irrelevant

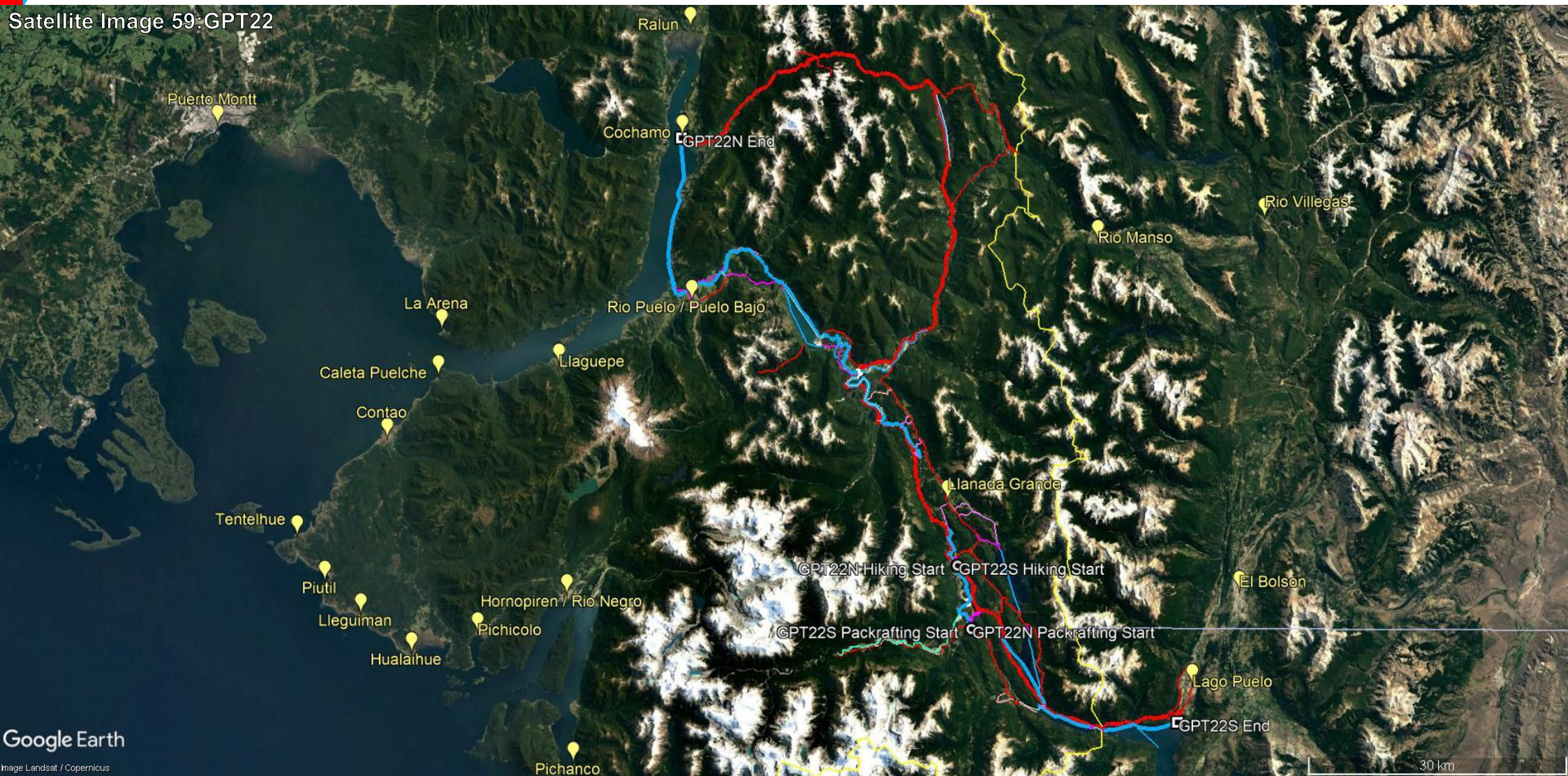
Table 84: Lake Packrafting Summary Table

Add comment.

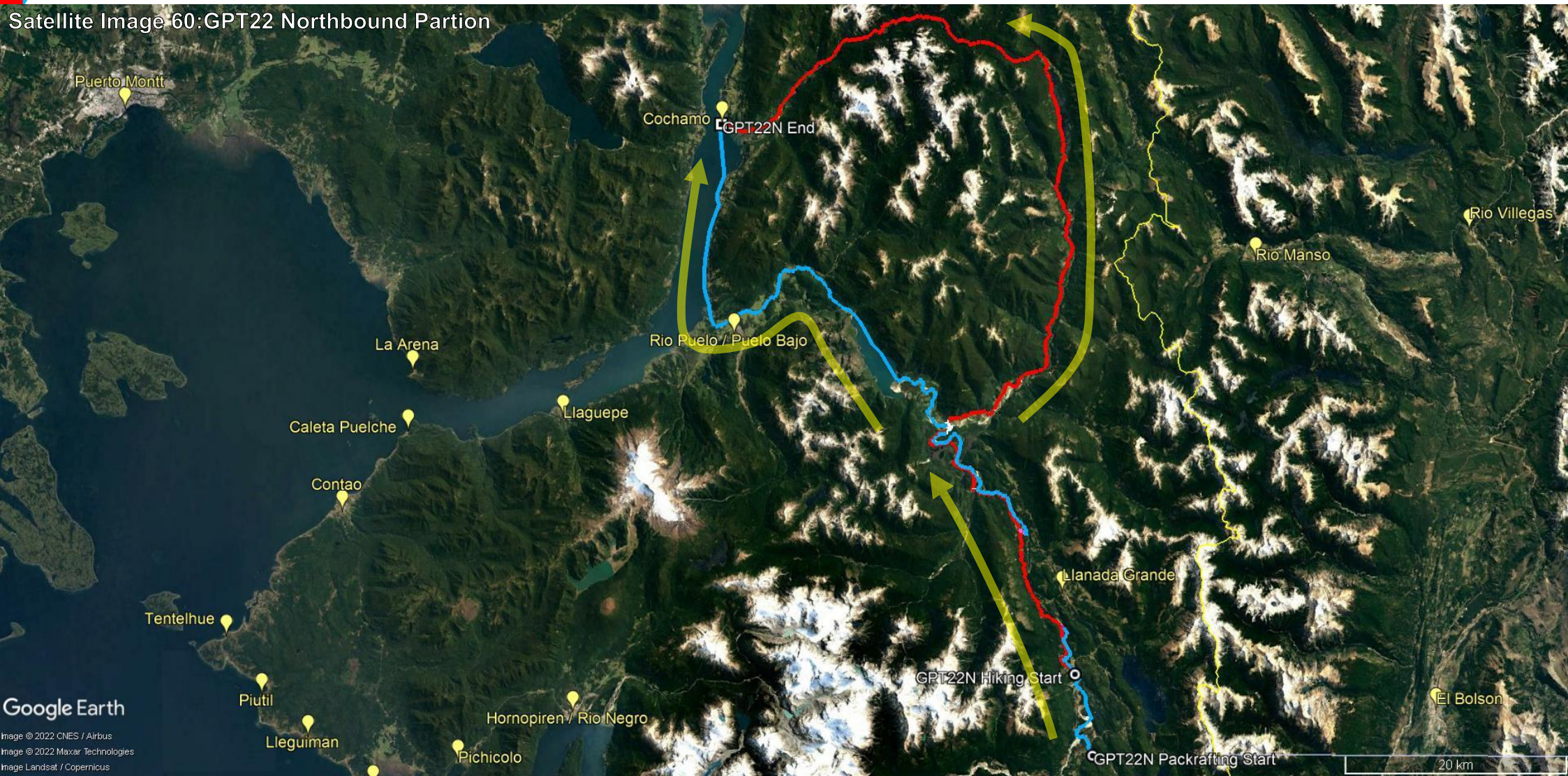
2.5.23 GPT22: Cochamó

GPT22: Cochamo					Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	D: Lagos Chilenos		Total	**160.4 km**	**52 h**	**136.5 km**	**35 h**
Region	Chile & Argentina: Los Lagos (X) & Chubut		Trails (TL)	137.8 km	85.9%	20.3 km	14.9%
Start	Cochamó		Minor Roads (MR)	10.8 km	6.7%	1.8 km	1.3%
Finish	Lago Puelo (Puerto)		Primary Roads (PR)	9.6 km	6.0%	2.8 km	2.0%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	2.2 km	1.4%	0.5 km	0.4%
Traversable	Dec - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Nov, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	(1.8 km)	(1.1%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT21, GPT23, GPT78H, GPT78P		Investigation (I)	-	-	(1.9 km)	(1.4%)
Options	338 km (12 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**111.1 km**	**81.4%**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		62.4 km	45.7%
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		32.4 km	23.8%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		16.3 km	11.9%
Comment	Hiking: Flip-Flop recommended Packrafting: Flip-Flop recommended						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting, Partly Overrun						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords						

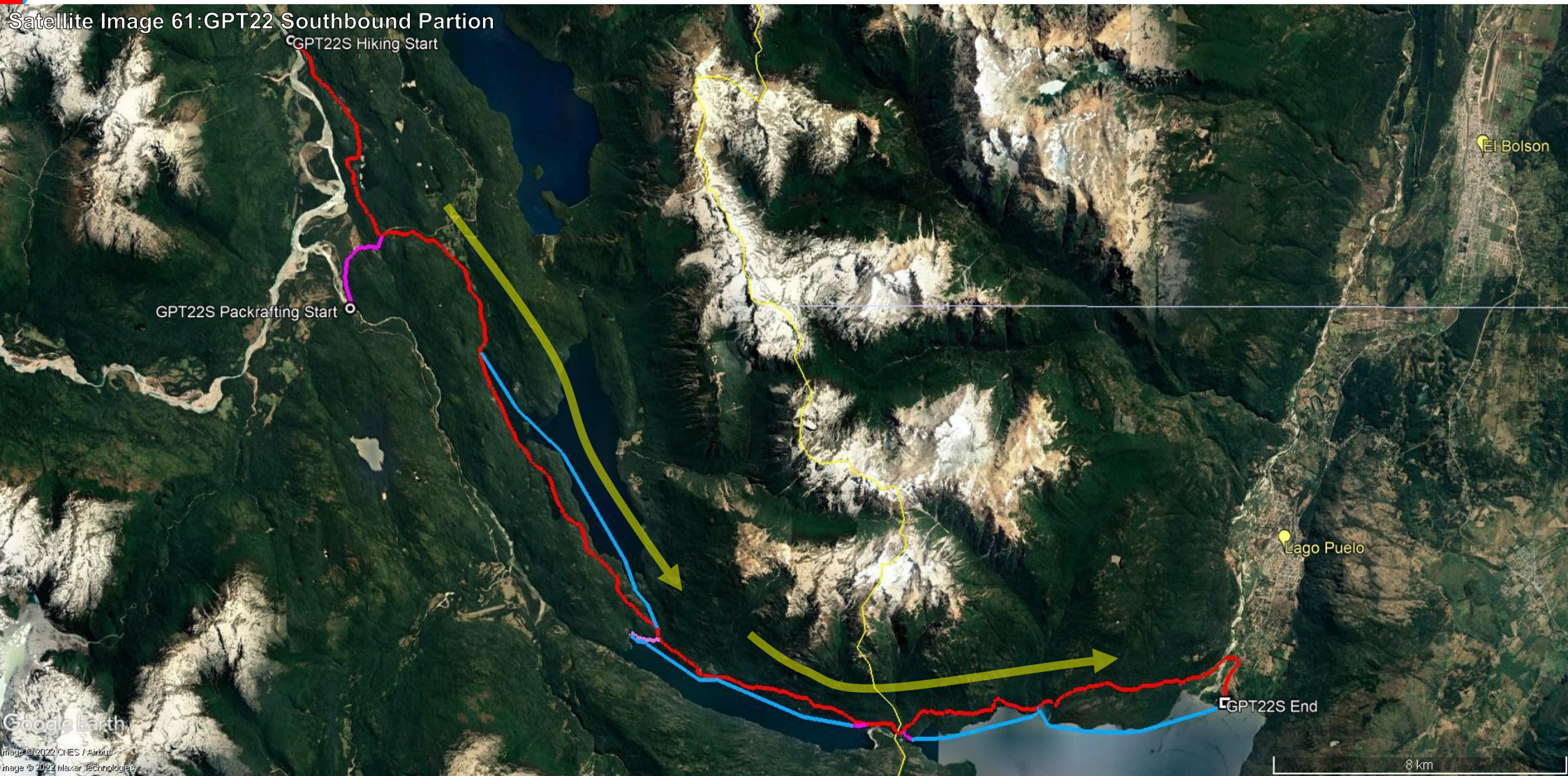
Table 85: GPT22 Section Summary

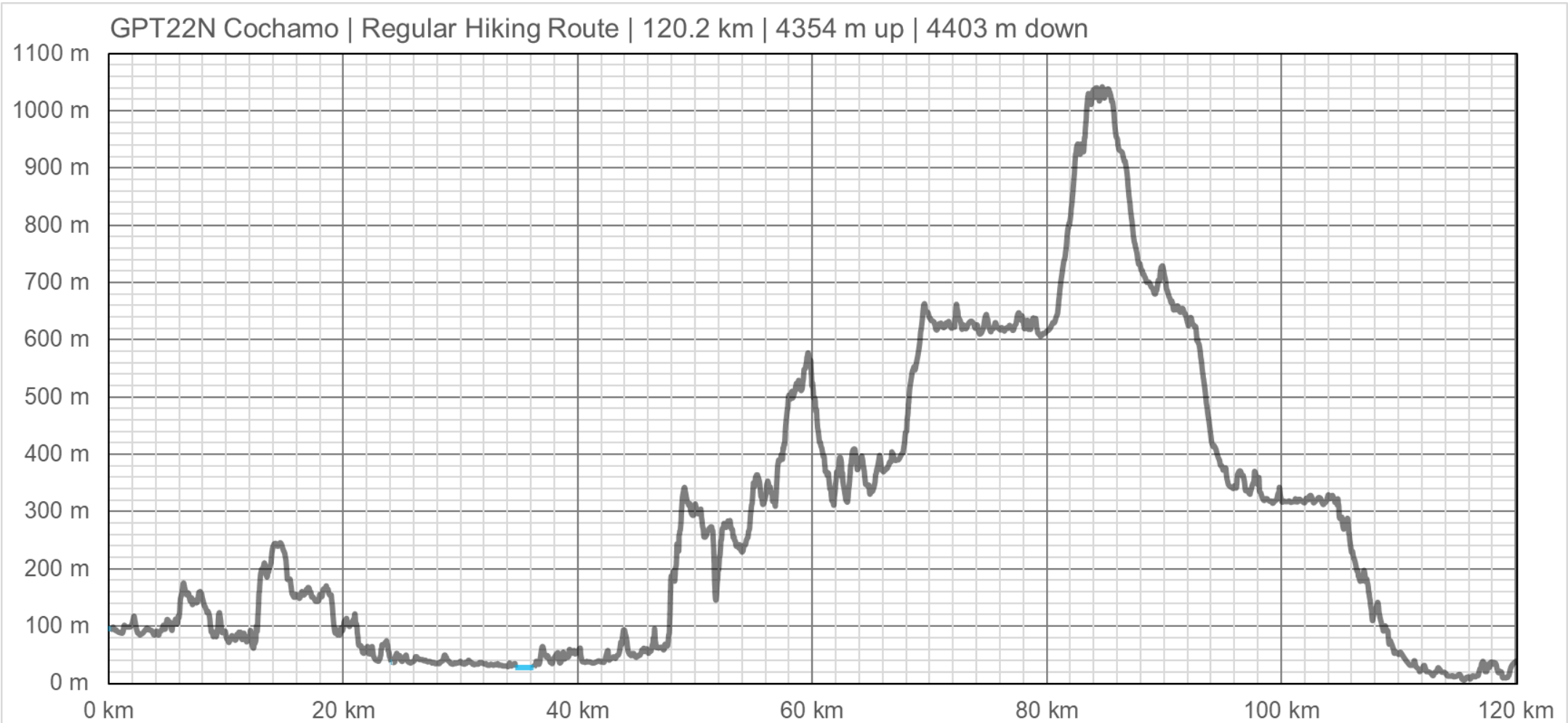

Satellite Image 59:GPT22
Ralun
Puerto Montt
Cochamo
GPT22N End
Rio Villegas
Rio Manso
La Arena
Rio Puelo / Puelo Bajo
Caleta Puelche
Llaguepe
Contao
Llanada Grande
Tentelhue
GPT22N Hiking Start
GPT22S Hiking Start
El Bolson
Piutil
Hornopiren / Rio Negro
Lleguiman
Pichicolo
GPT22S Packrafting Start
GPT22N Packrafting Start
Hualaihue
Lago Puelo
GPT22S End
Pichanco
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
30 km

Satellite Image 60:GPT22 Northbound Partion

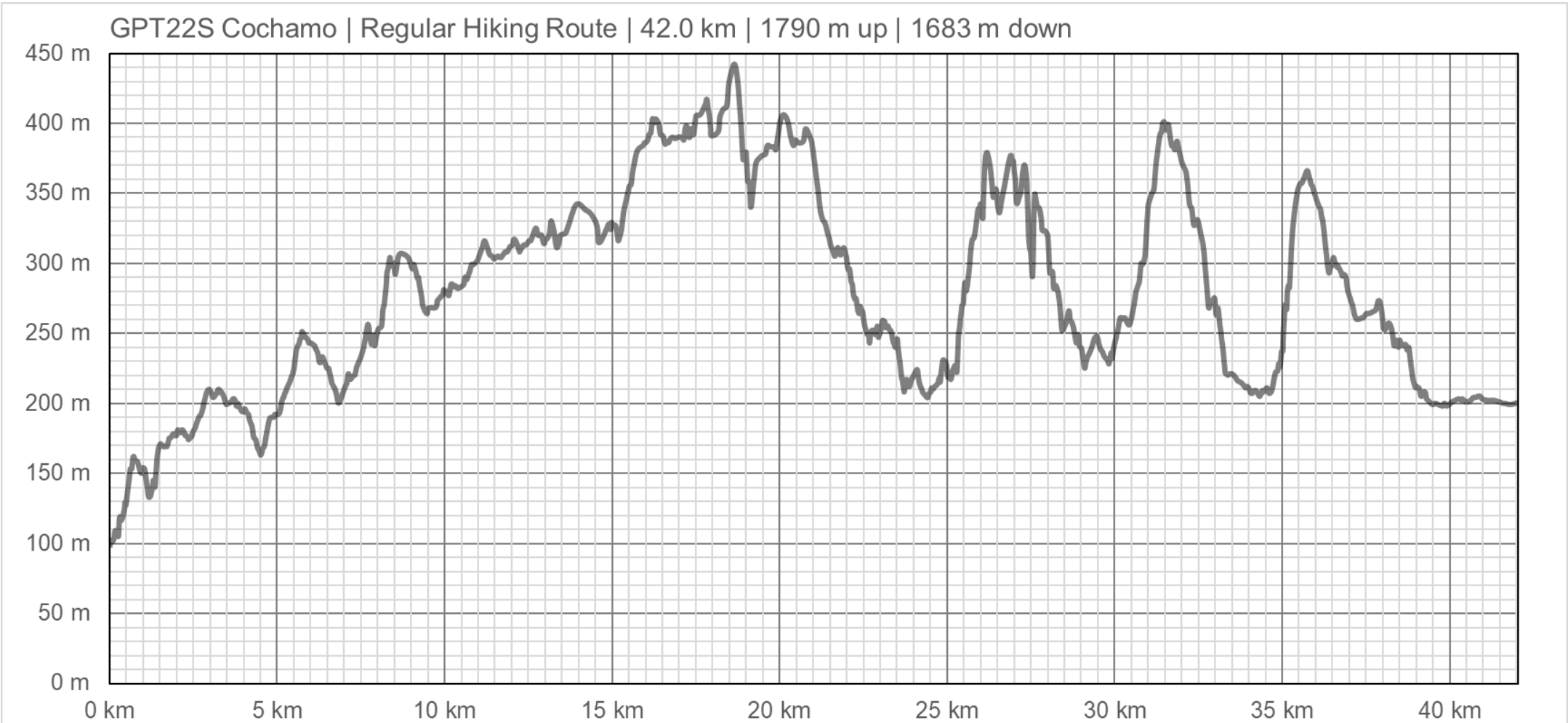


Satellite Image 61:GPT22 Southbound Partion

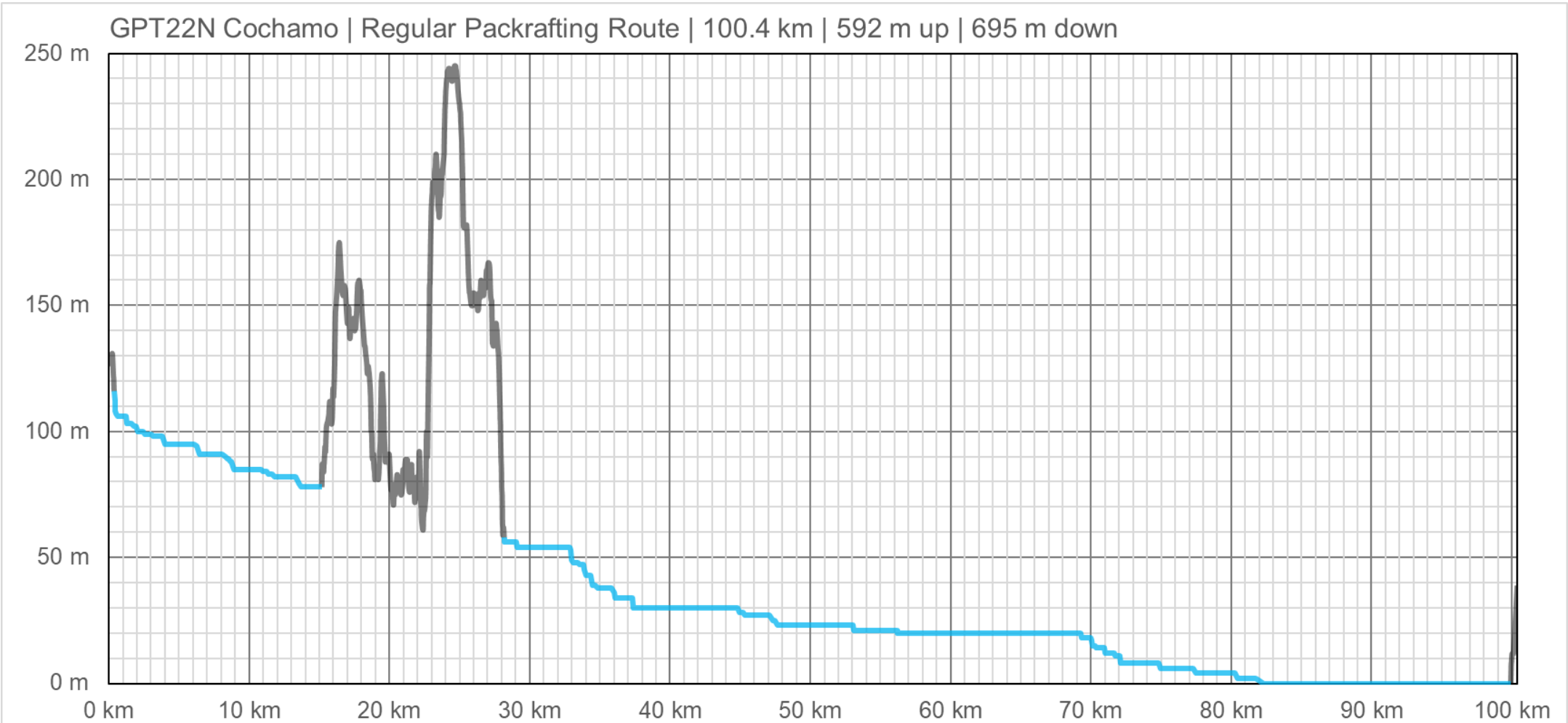




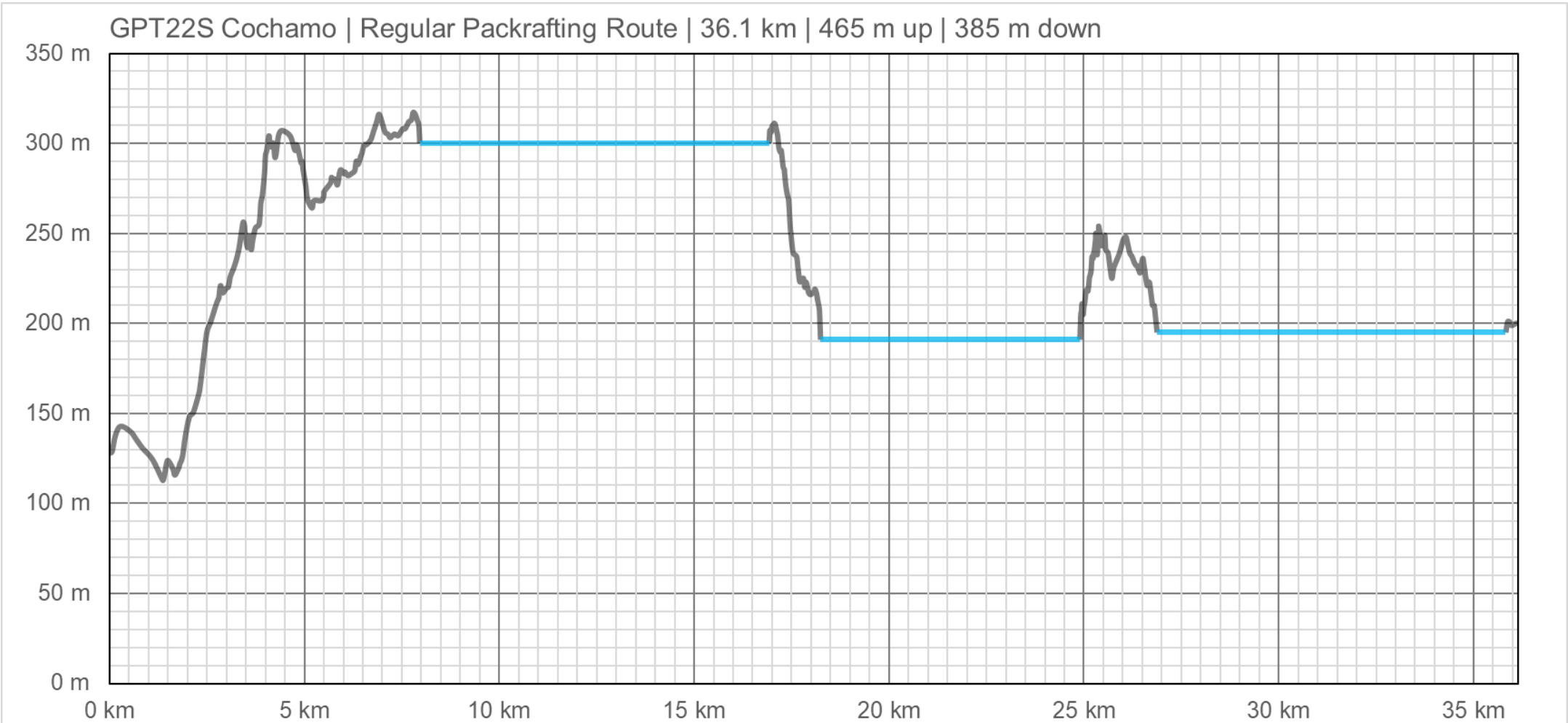
Elevation Profile 38: GPT22 Regular Hiking Route: Northbound Partition



Elevation Profile 39: GPT22 Regular Hiking Route: Southbound Partition



Elevation Profile 40: GPT22 Regular Packrafting Route: Northbound Partition



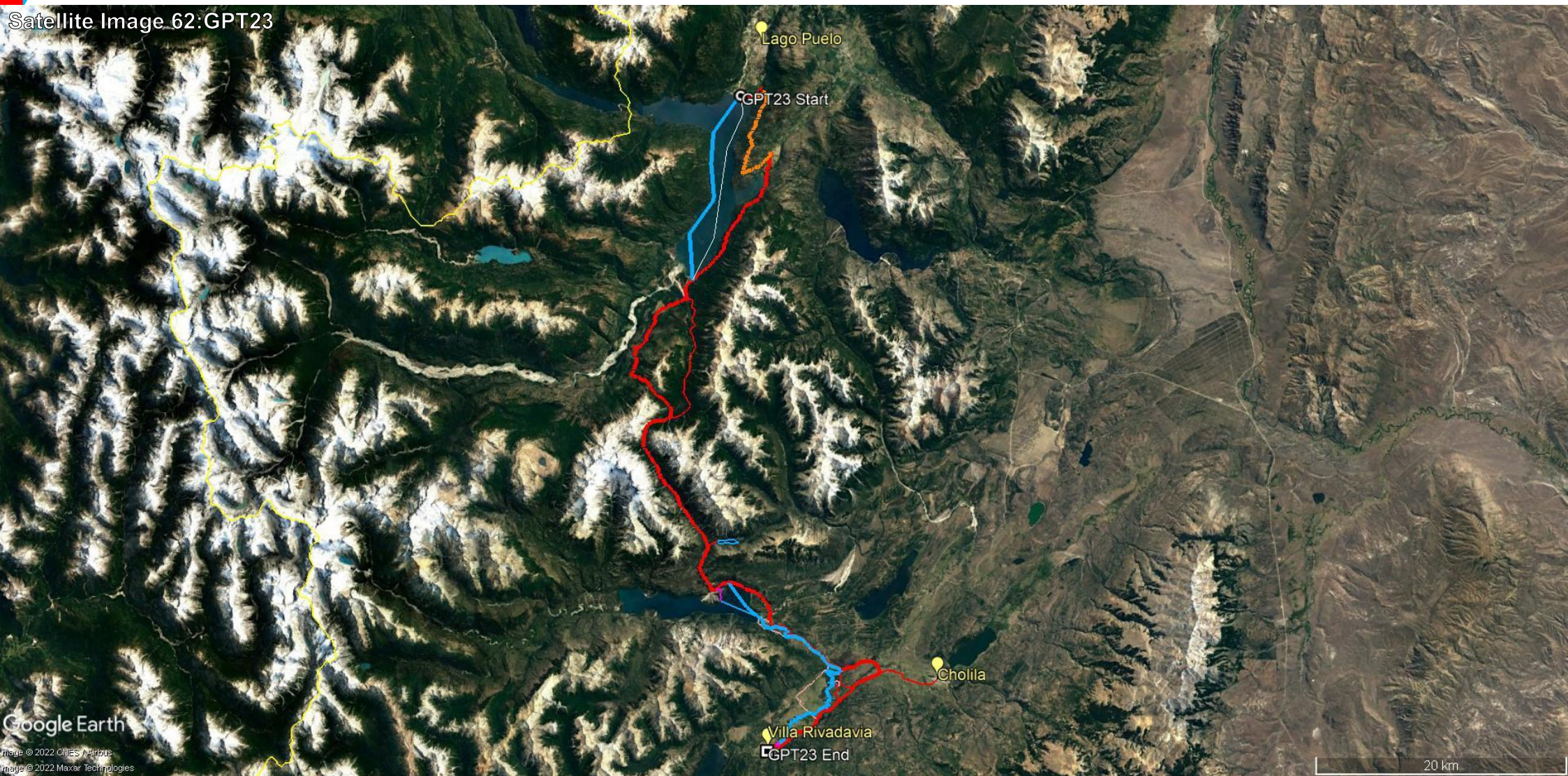
Elevation Profile 41: GPT22 Regular Packrafting Route: Southbound Partition

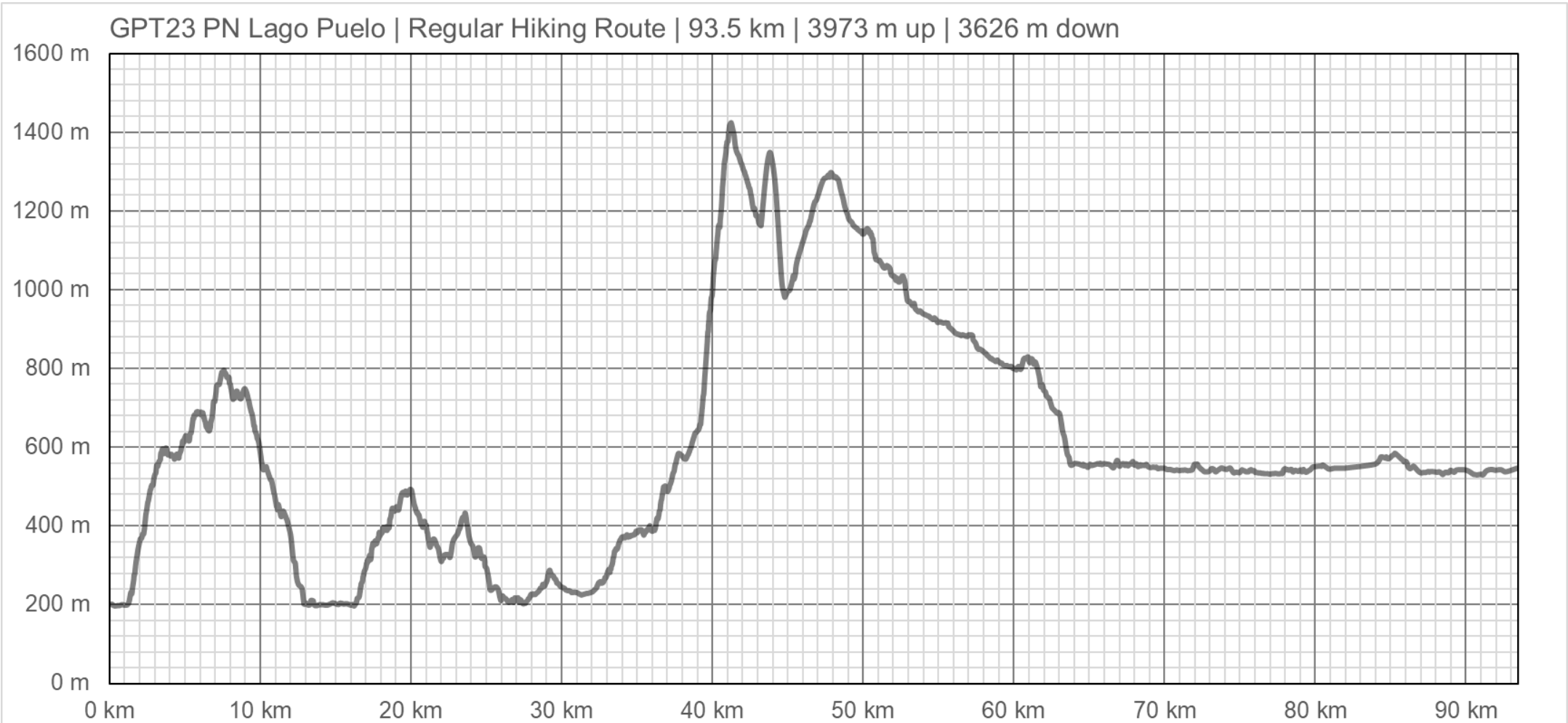
2.5.24 GPT23: PN Lago Puelo

GPT23: PN Lago Puelo				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	E: Lagos Argentinos		Total	**93.4 km**	**34 h**	**79.6 km**	**27 h**
Region	Argentina: Chubut		Trails (TL)	53.6 km	57.4%	28.2 km	35.5%
Start	Lago Puelo (Puerto)		Minor Roads (MR)	20.1 km	21.5%	1.6 km	2.0%
Finish	Villa Lago Rivadavia		Primary Roads (PR)	11.6 km	12.4%	0.9 km	1.1%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	4.2 km	4.4%	4.5 km	5.6%
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	4.1 km	4.4%	4.1 km	5.1%
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT22, GPT24H, GPT24P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	52 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	(12.2 km)	(13.1%)	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**40.3 km**	**50.6%**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		20.9 km	26.3%
Difficulty	6 (of 5)	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		19.4 km	24.4%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ More packraft use						
Character	Forest, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable						

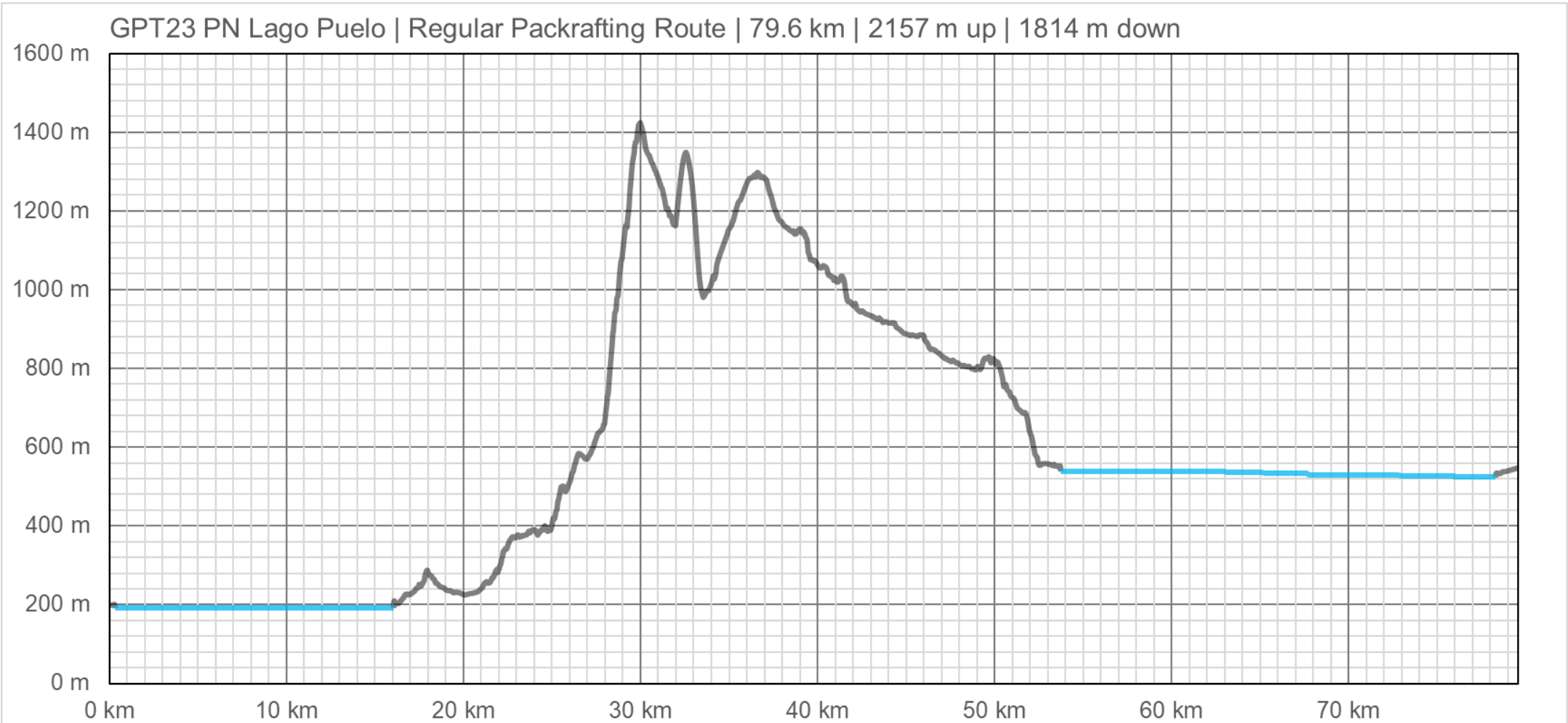
Table 86: GPT23 Section Summary

Satellite Image 62:GPT23





Elevation Profile 42: GPT23 Regular Hiking Route



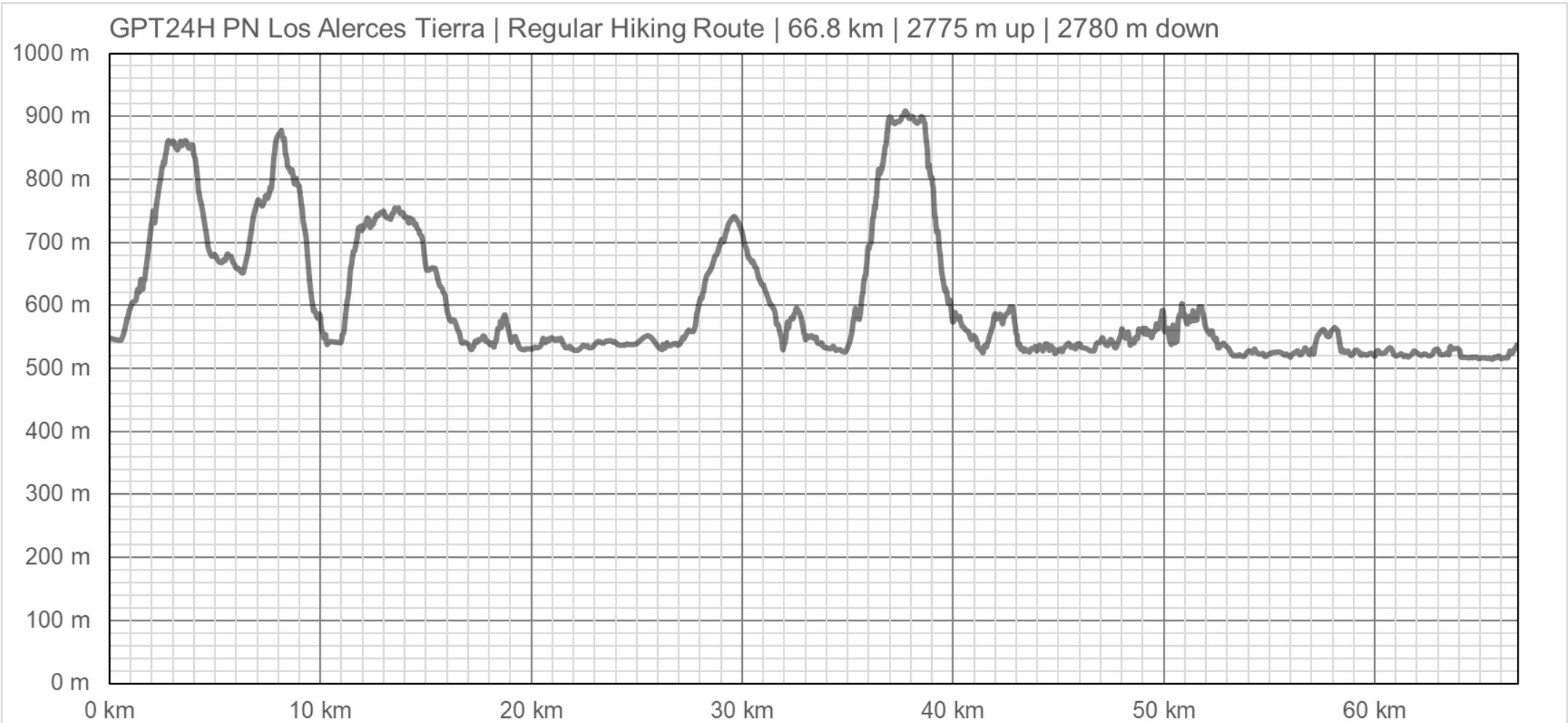
Elevation Profile 43: GPT23 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.25 GPT24H: PN Los Alerces Tierra

GPT24H: PN Los Alerces Tierra				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	E: Lagos Argentinos		Total	**66.8 km**	**22 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Argentina: Chubut		Trails (TL)	41.1 km	61.5%	-	-
Start	Villa Lago Rivadavia		Minor Roads (MR)	0.4 km	0.6%	-	-
Finish	Villa Futalaufquen		Primary Roads (PR)	12.8 km	19.2%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	12.5 km	18.7%	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT23, GPT24P, GPT25H, GPT25P		Investigation (I)	(2.4 km)	(3.6%)	-	-
Options	71 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Settlers, Road Walking, Partly Overrun						
Challenges	Bush Bashing						

Table 87: GPT24H Section Summary


Satellite Image 63:GPT24H
Villa Rivadavia
GPT24H Start
Villa Futalaufquen
GPT24H End
Esquel
10 km
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies



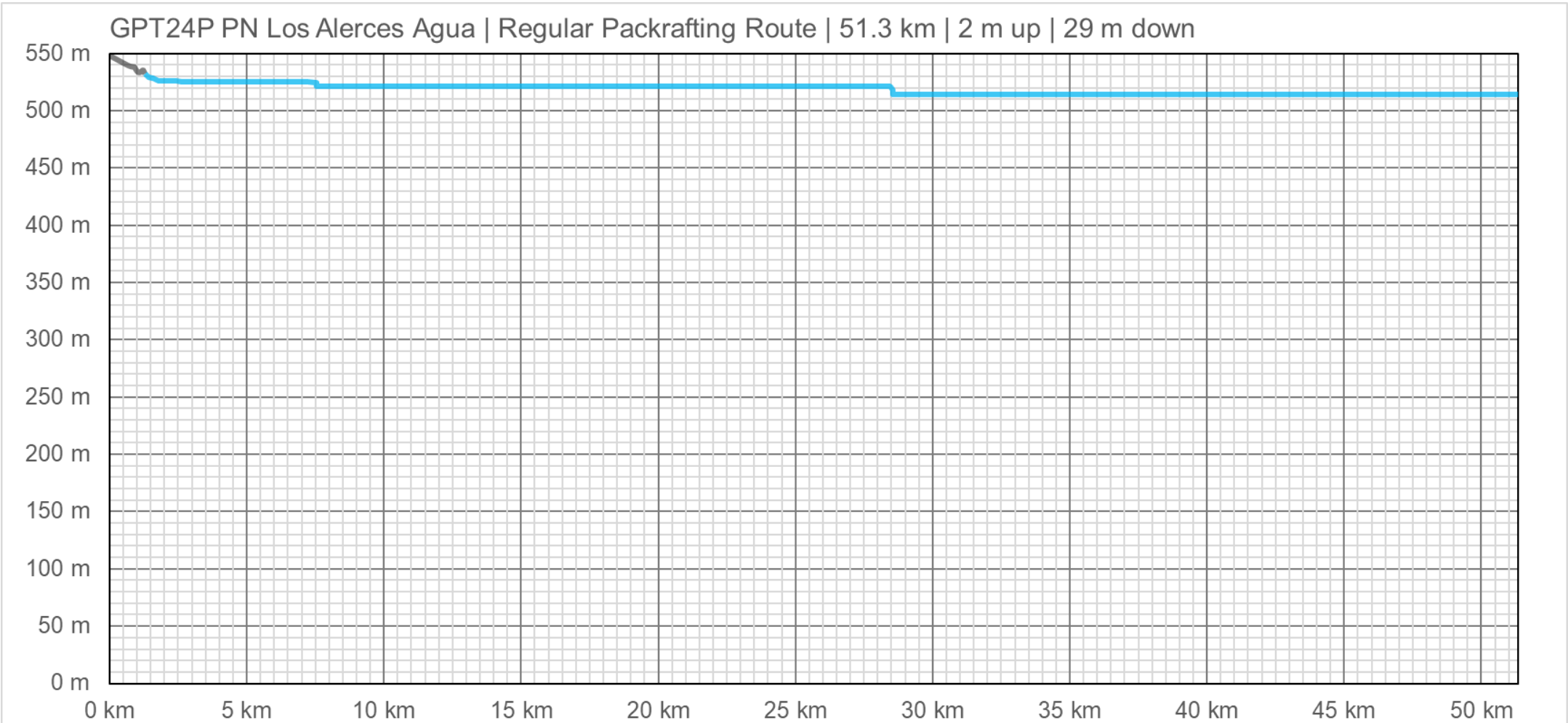
Elevation Profile 44: GPT24H Regular Hiking Route

2.5.26 GPT24P: PN Los Alerces Agua

GPT24P: PN Los Alerces Agua				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	E: Lagos Argentinos		Total	**-**	**-**	**51.3 km**	**13 h**
Region	Argentina: Chubut		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Villa Lago Rivadavia		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	0.4 km	0.8%
Finish	Lago Kruger Lodge		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	0.9 km	1.7%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT23, GPT24H, GPT25H, GPT25P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**50.1 km**	**97.5%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		17.8 km	34.6%
Difficulty	-	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		32.3 km	62.9%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↓ More packraft use						
Character	Forest, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 88: GPT24P Section Summary


Satellite Image 64:GPT24P
Villa Rivadavia
GPT24P Start
GPT24P End
Villa Futalaufquen
Esquel
10 km
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies



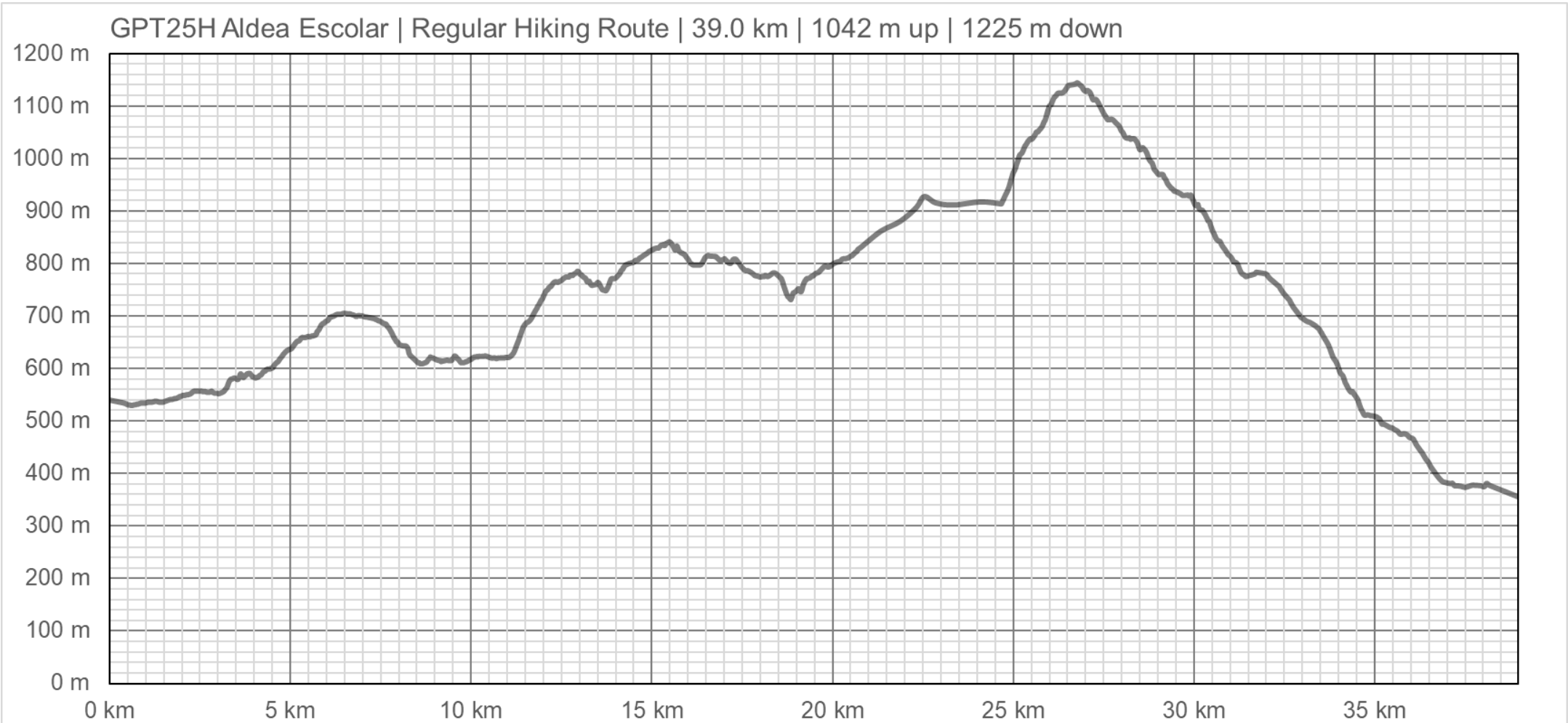
Elevation Profile 45: GPT24P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.27 GPT25H: Aldea Escolar

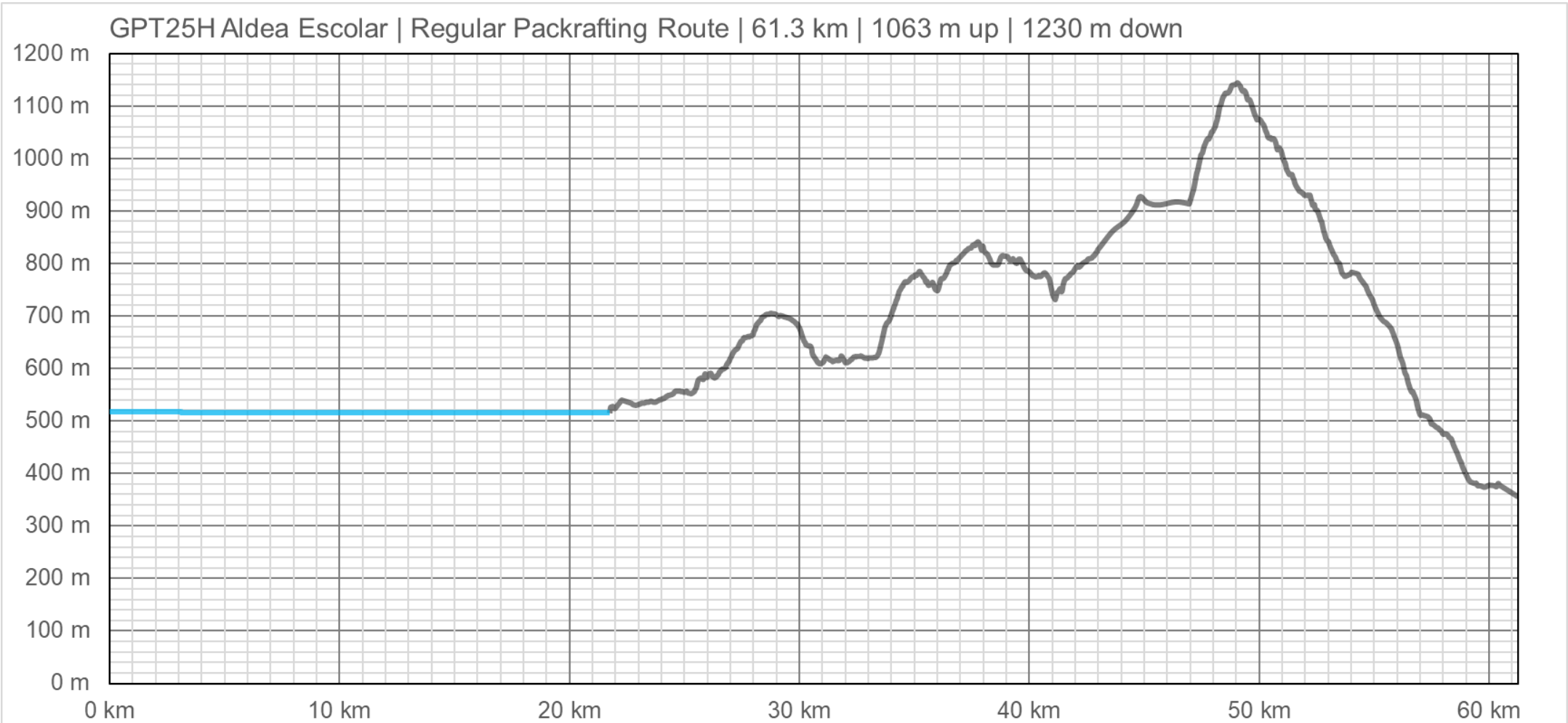
GPT25H: Aldea Escolar				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	E: Lagos Argentinos		Total	**39.0 km**	**11 h**	**61.3 km**	**17 h**
Region	Argentina: Chubut		Trails (TL)	15.5 km	39.8%	15.5 km	25.3%
Start	Villa Futalaufquen, Lago Kruger Lodge		Minor Roads (MR)	23.5 km	60.2%	23.8 km	38.9%
Finish	Aldea Escolar		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.1 km	0.2%
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT24H, GPT24P, GPT25P, GPT26, GPT70		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	92 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**21.8 km**	**35.5%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		21.8 km	35.5%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Bush Bashing						

Table 89: GPT25H Section Summary


Satellite Image 65:GPT25H
GPT25H Packrafting Start
Villa Futalaufquen
GPT25H Hiking Start
Esquel
Trevelin
Aldea Escolar
GPT25H End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



Elevation Profile 46: GPT25H Regular Hiking Route

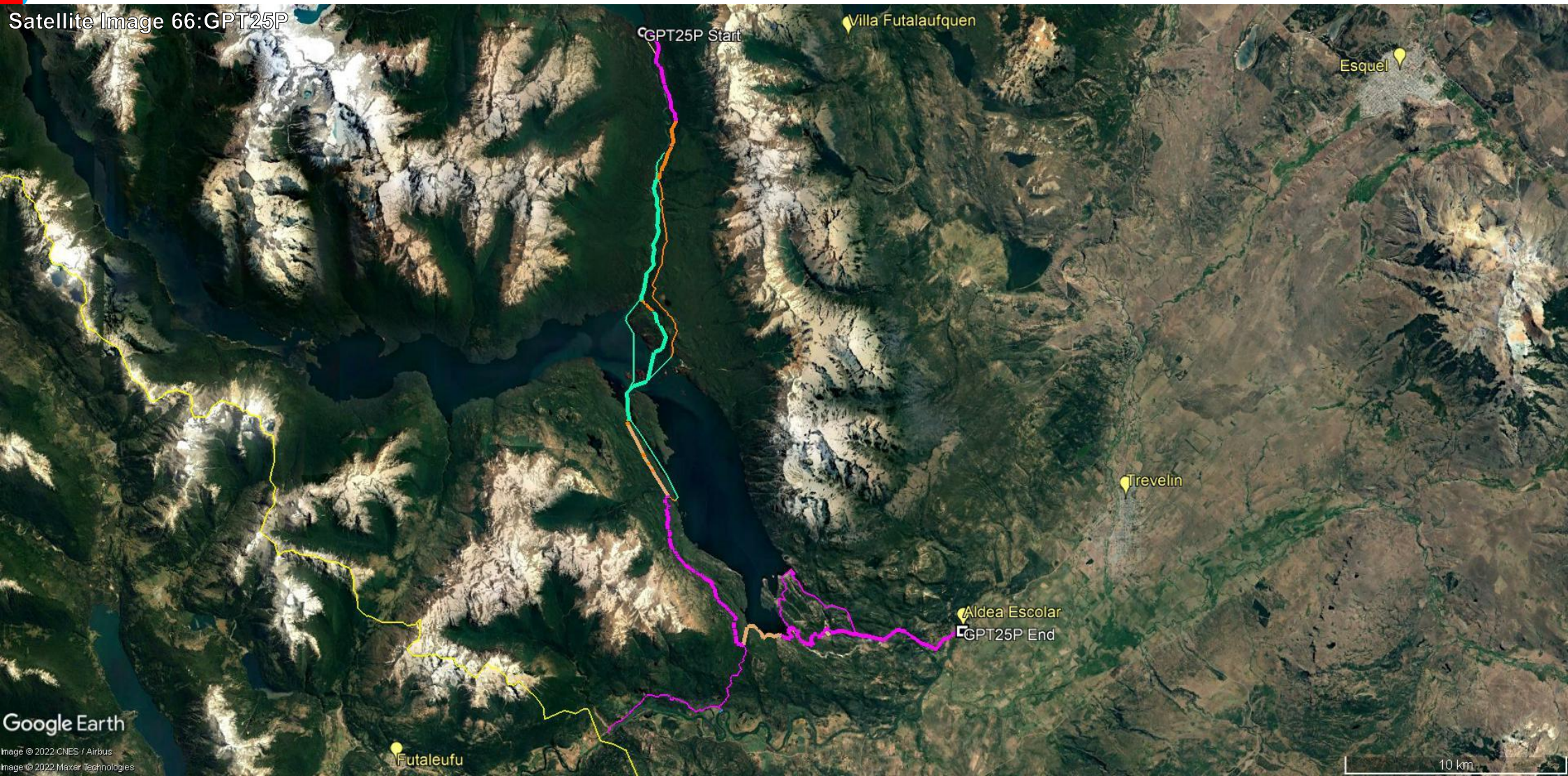


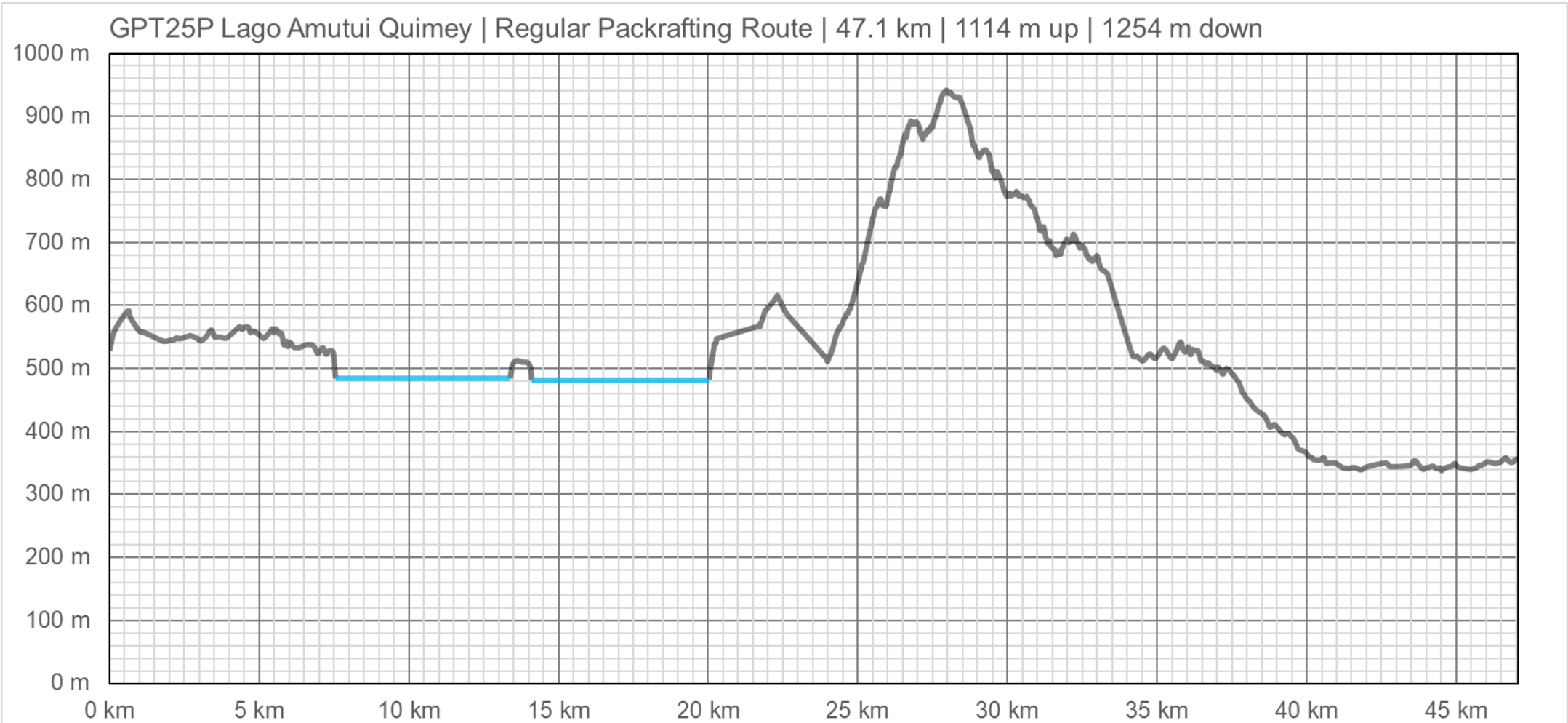
Elevation Profile 47: GPT25H Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.28 GPT25P: Lago Amutui Quimei

GPT25P: Lago Amutui Quimey				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	E: Lagos Argentinos		Total	**-**	**-**	**47.1 km**	**16 h**
Region	Argentina: Chubut		Trails (TL)	-	-	21.3 km	45.2%
Start	Lago Kruger Lodge		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	0.7 km	1.5%
Finish	Aldea Escolar		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	9.8 km	20.7%
Status	Mostly Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.7 km	1.5%
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	2.9 km	6.1%
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT24H, GPT24P, GPT25H, GPT26, GPT70		Investigation (I)	-	-	(5.9 km)	(12.6%)
Options	42 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(22.0 km)	(46.8%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**11.8 km**	**25.0%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		11.8 km	25.0%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↓ Preferable						
Character	Forest, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 90: GPT25P Section Summary


Satellite Image 66:GPT25P
GPT25P Start
Villa Futalaufquen
Esquel
Trevelin
Aldea Escolar
GPT25P End
Futaleufu
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km

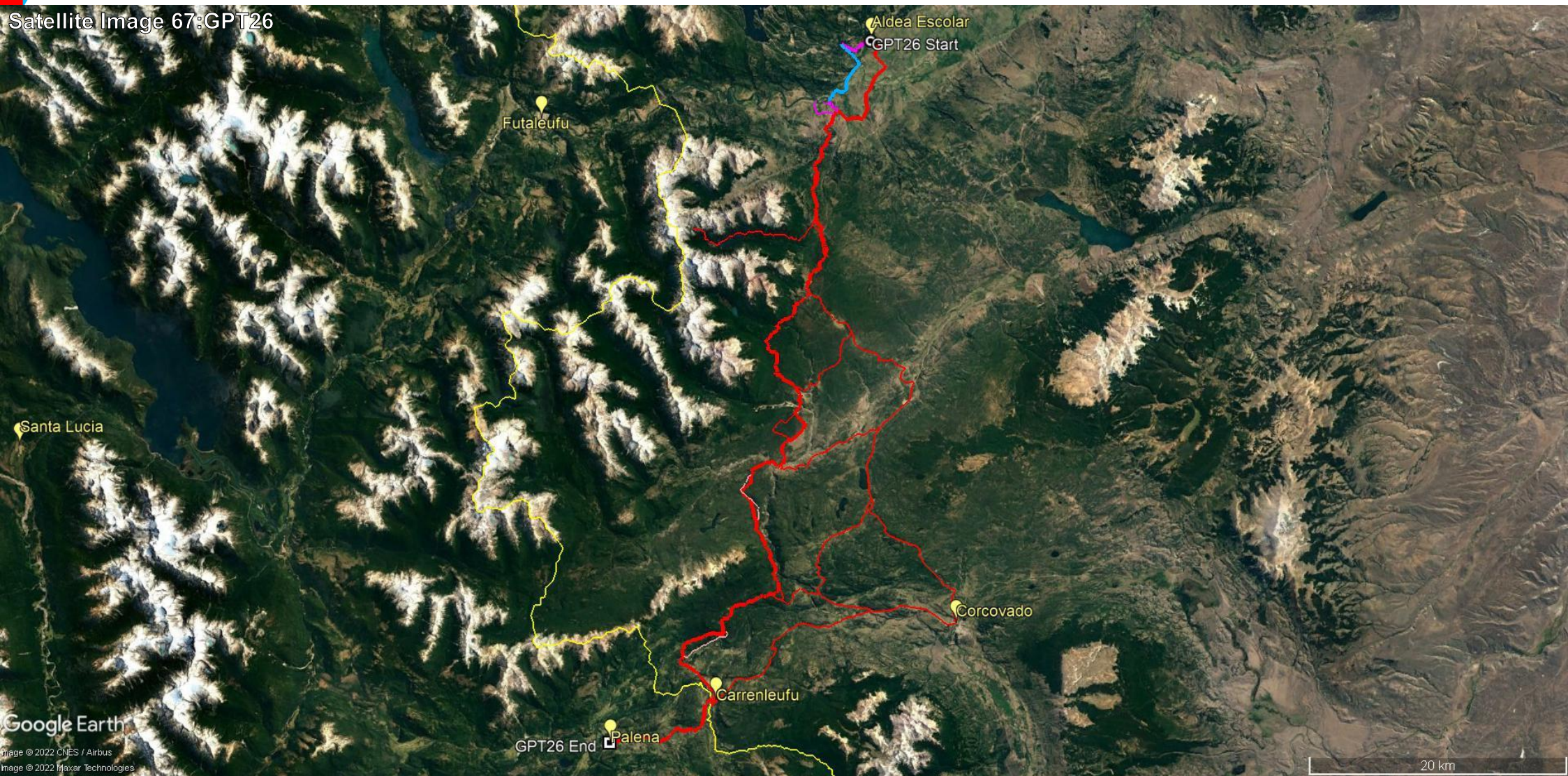


Elevation Profile 48: GPT25P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.29 GPT26: Carrenleufú

GPT26: Carrenleufu				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	E: Lagos Argentinos		Total	**90.1 km**	**25 h**	**90.3 km**	**25 h**
Region	Argentina & Chile: Chubut & Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	22.0 km	24.4%	22.0 km	24.3%
Start	Aldea Escolar		Minor Roads (MR)	54.3 km	60.2%	45.4 km	50.3%
Finish	Palena		Primary Roads (PR)	11.7 km	13.0%	14.4 km	15.9%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	2.2 km	2.4%	2.2 km	2.5%
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT25H, GPT25P, GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT70		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	145 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**6.3 km**	**6.9%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		River (RI)		6.3 km	6.9%
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	1 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords						

Table 91: GPT26 Section Summary


Satellite Image 67:GPT26
Aldea Escolar
GPT26 Start
Futaleufu
Santa Lucia
Corcovado
Carrenleufu
GPT26 End
Palena
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
20 km



Elevation Profile 49: GPT26 Regular Hiking Route



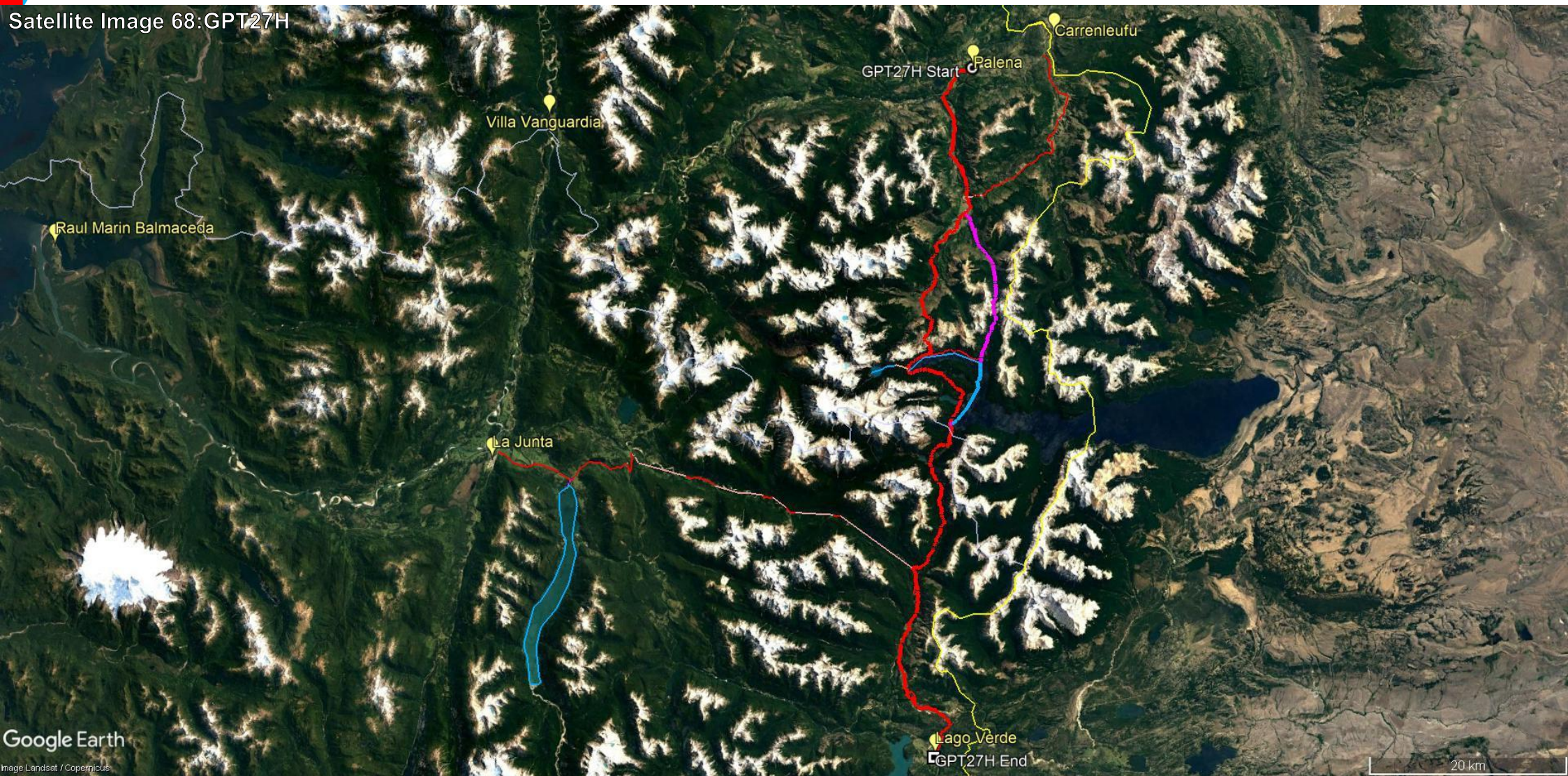
Elevation Profile 50: GPT26 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.30 GPT27H: Lago Palena

GPT27H: Lago Palena				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	F: Sector Palena		Total	**101.3 km**	**32 h**	**91.4 km**	**29 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X) & Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	66.5 km	65.6%	49.4 km	54.1%
Start	Palena		Minor Roads (MR)	31.3 km	30.8%	31.3 km	34.2%
Finish	Lago Verde		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	3.6 km	3.5%	3.3 km	3.7%
Traversable	Feb - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Jan, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	0.2 km	0.2%
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT26, GPT27P, GPT28H, GPT30P, GPT75P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	142 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**7.2 km**	**7.9%**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		7.2 km	7.9%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation						

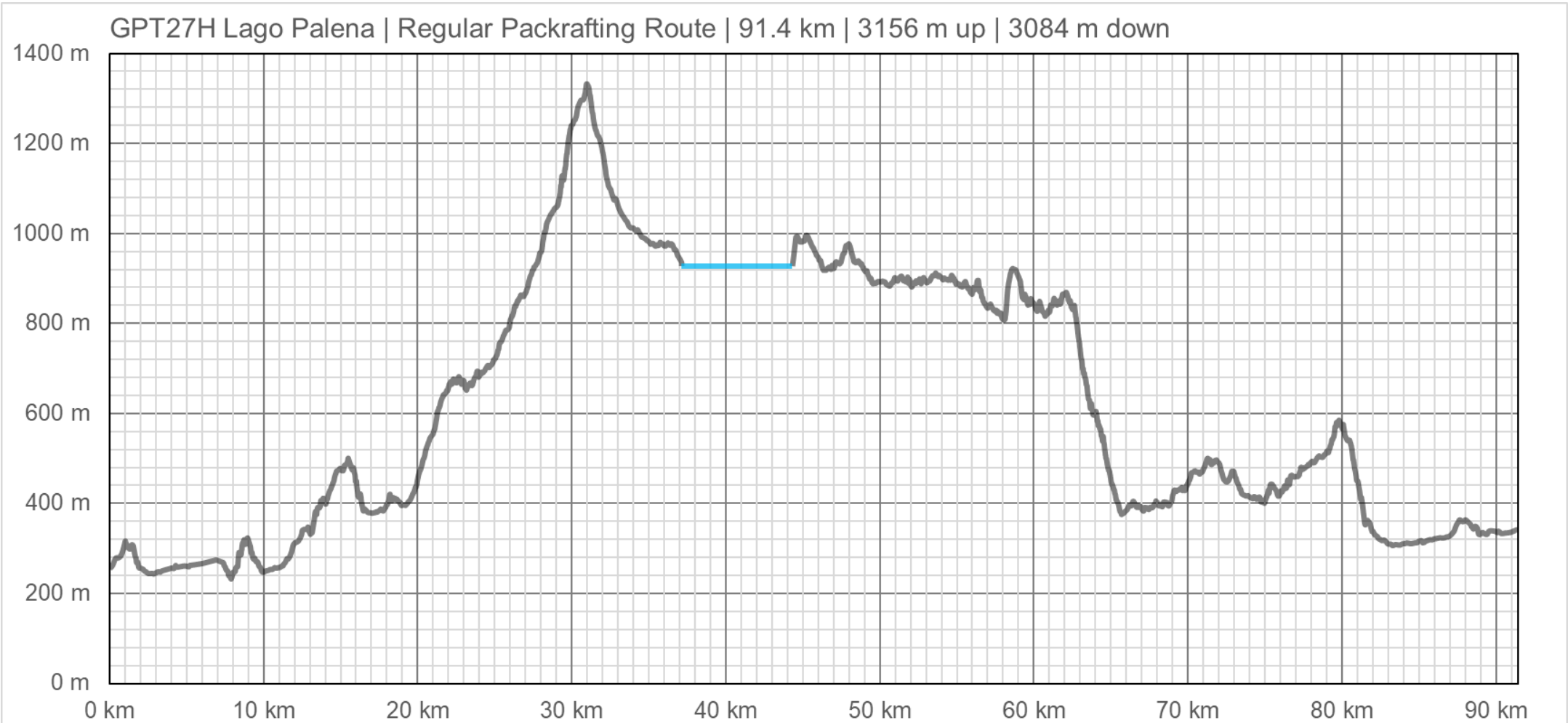
Table 92: GPT27H Section Summary

Satellite Image 68:GPT27H





Elevation Profile 51: GPT27H Regular Hiking Route



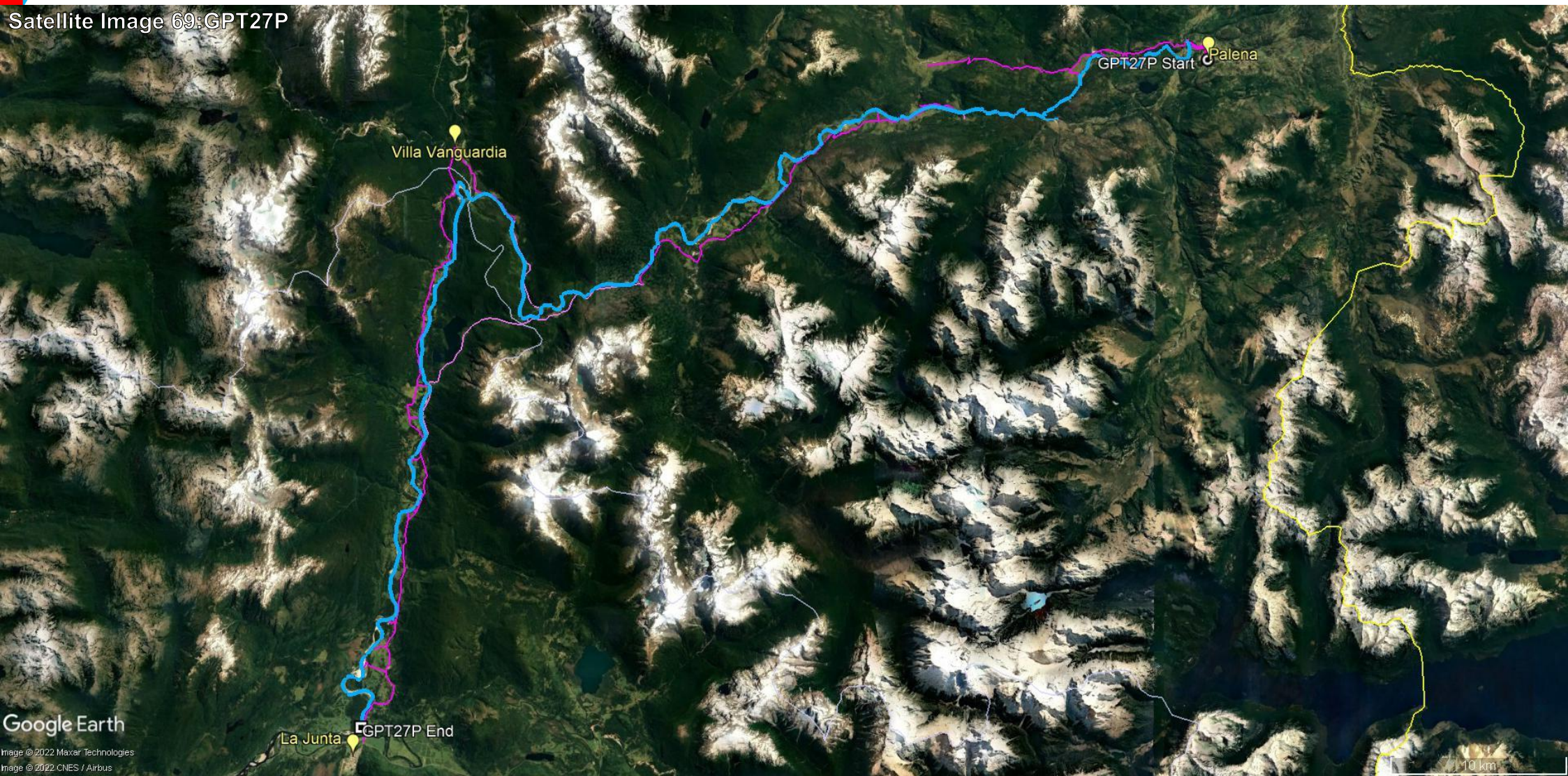
Elevation Profile 52: GPT27H Regular Packrafting Route

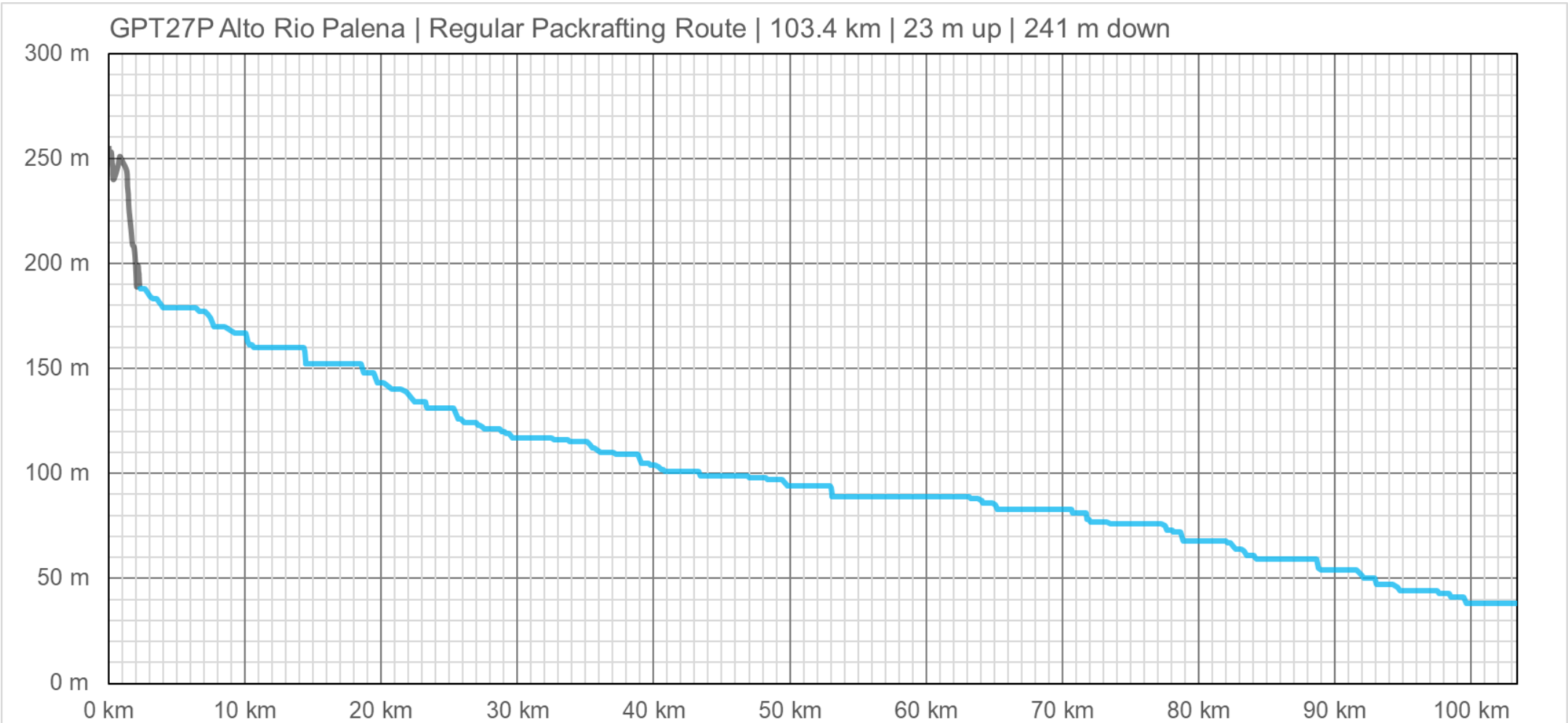
2.5.31 GPT27P: Alto Río Palena

GPT27P: Alto Rio Palena				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	F: Sector Palena		Total	**-**	**-**	**103.4 km**	**21 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X) & Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Palena		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Río Palena (La Junta)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	2.3 km	2.2%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Jan - May (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT26, GPT27H, GPT28P, GPT72, GPT75P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	125 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**101.1 km**	**97.8%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		101.1 km	97.8%
Difficulty	-	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Only ↓		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 93: GPT27P Section Summary

Satellite Image 69:GPT27P





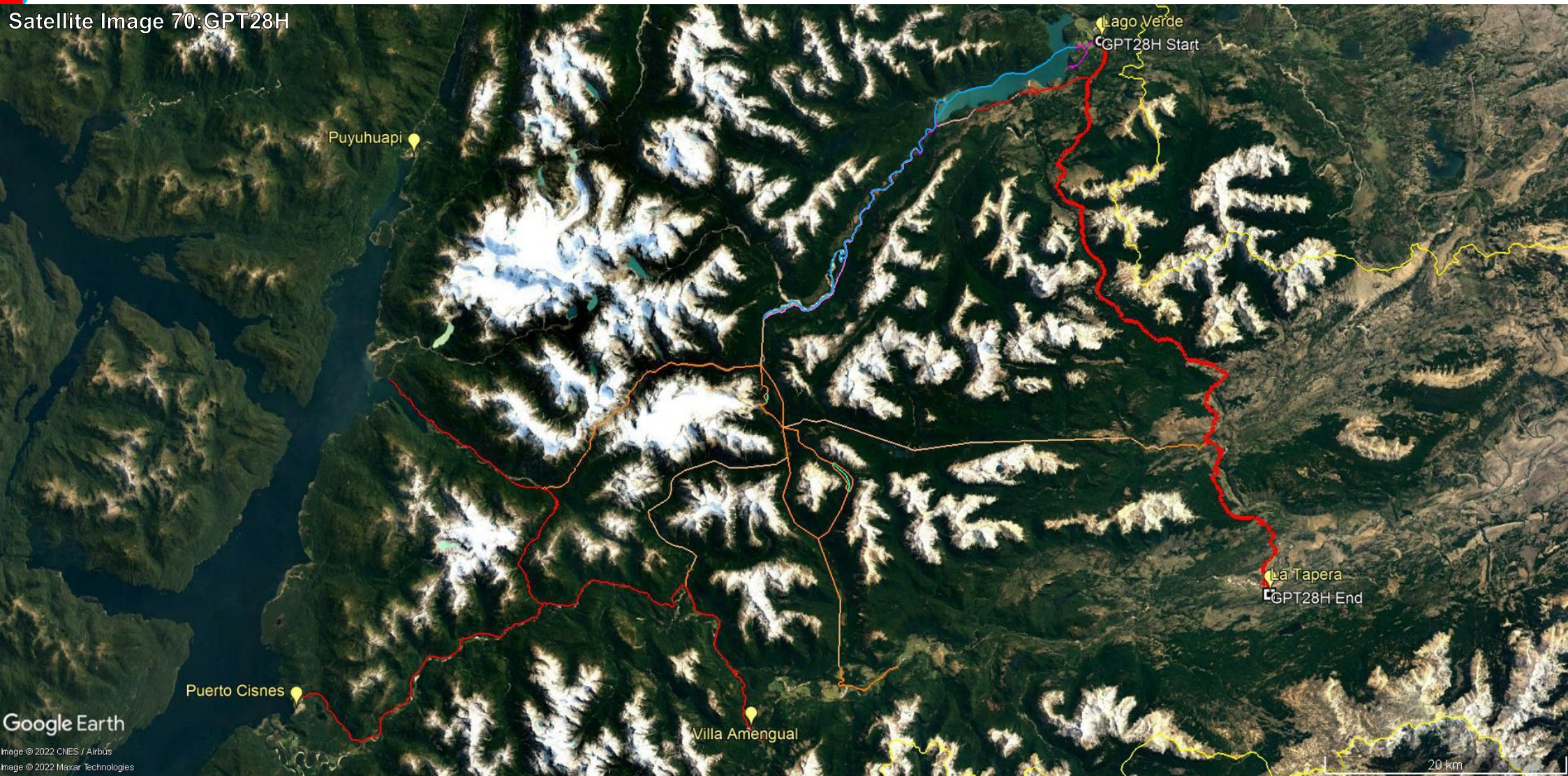
Elevation Profile 53: GPT27P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.32 GPT28H: La Tapera

GPT28H: La Tapera				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	F: Sector Palena		Total	**72.5 km**	**21 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Lago Verde		Minor Roads (MR)	72.5 km	100.0%	-	-
Finish	La Tapera		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Jan - May (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT27H, GPT29H		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	420 km (6 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Farmland, Settlers						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords						

Table 94: GPT28H Section Summary

Satellite Image 70:GPT28H





Elevation Profile 54: GPT28H Regular Route

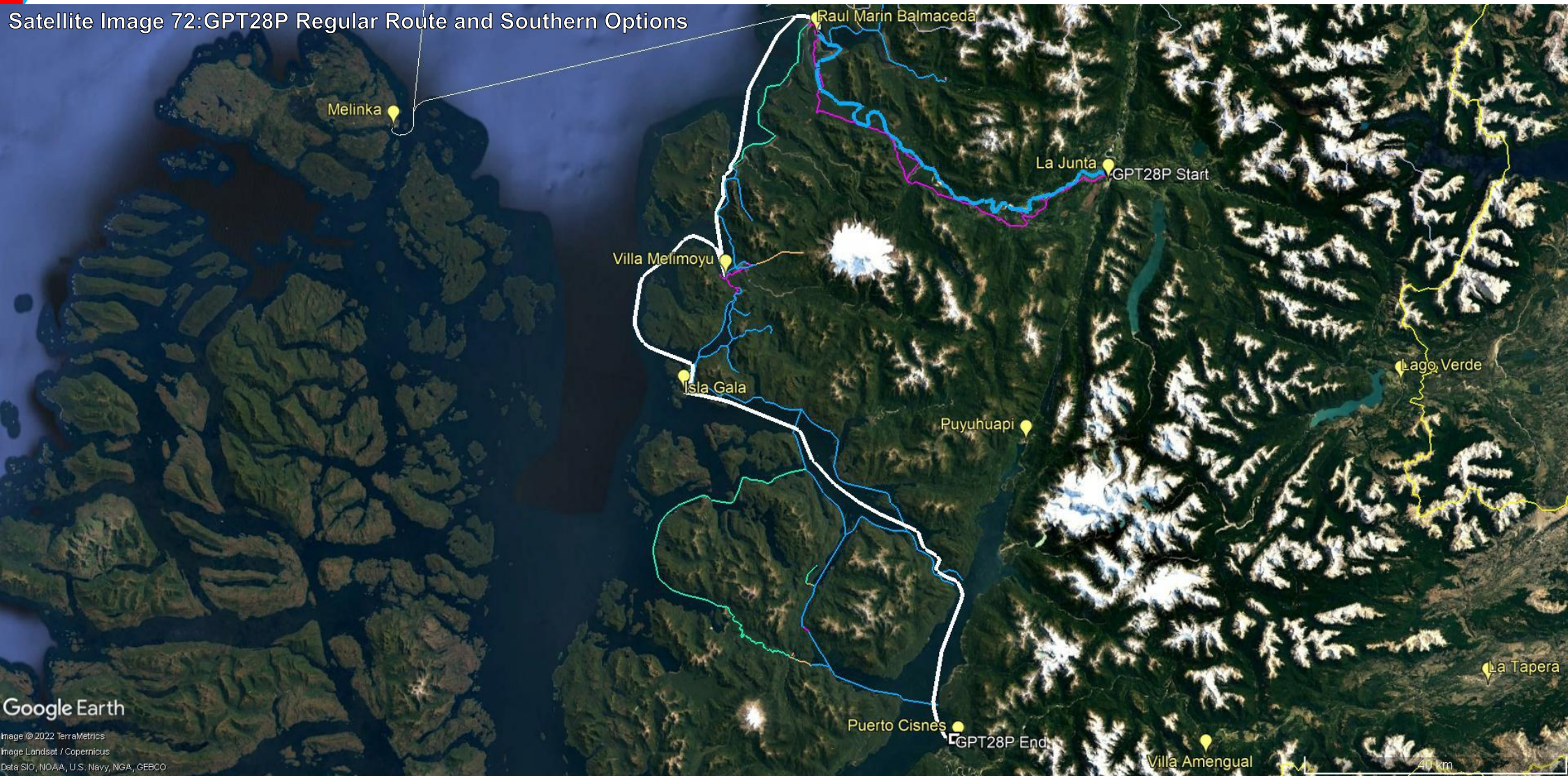
2.5.33 GPT28P: Bajo Río Palena

GPT28P: Bajo Rio Palena				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	F: Sector Palena		Total	**-**	**-**	**78.6 km**	**17 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Río Palena (La Junta)		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	1.2 km	1.5%
Finish	Puerto Cisnes		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Jan - May (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	(169.2 km)	(68.3%)
Connects to	GPT27P, GPT29P, GPT30P, GPT31P, GPT74P, GPT75P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	857 km (10 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**77.4 km**	**98.5%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		67.6 km	86.0%
Difficulty	-	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Only ↓		Fjord (FJ)		9.8 km	12.5%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Hot Springs, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

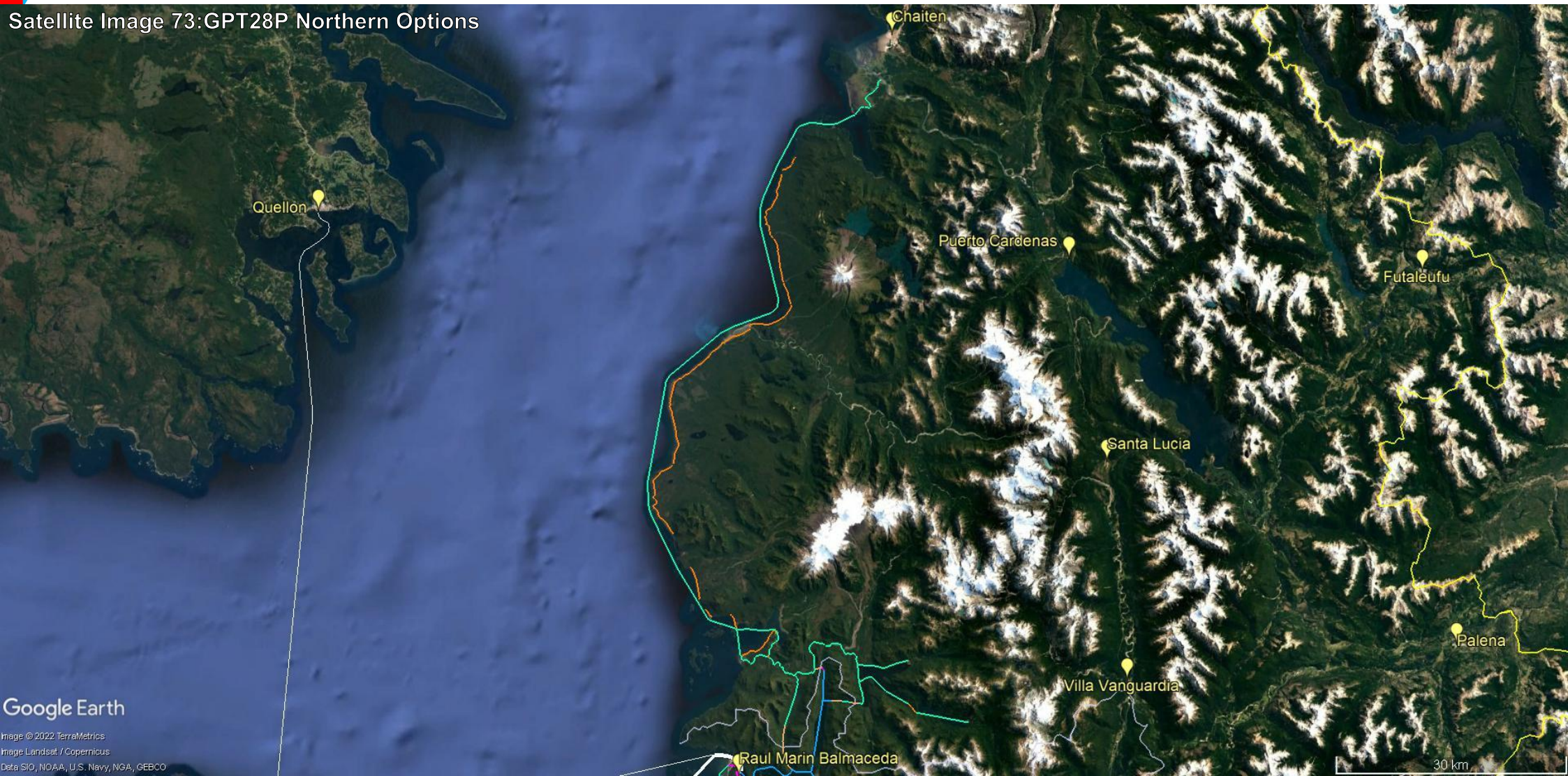
Table 95: GPT28P Section Summary

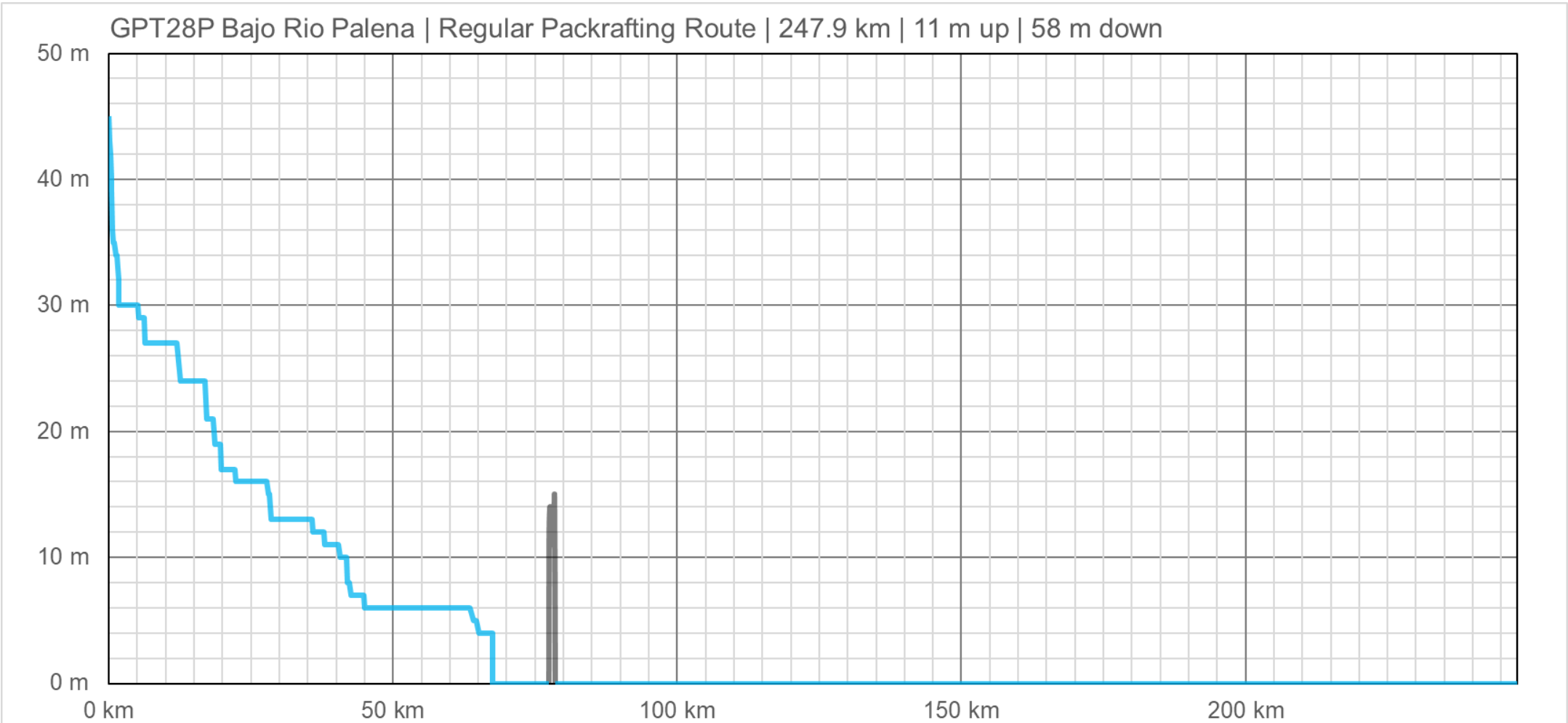

Satellite Image 71:GPT28P
Chaiten
Quellon
Puerto Cardenas
Futaleufu
Santa Lucia
Palena
Villa Vanguardia
Raul Marin Balmaceda
Melinka
La Junta
GPT28P Start
Villa Melimoyu
Lago Verde
Isla Gala
Puyuhuapi
La Tapera
Puerto Cisnes
GPT28P End
Villa Amengual
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
80 km

Satellite Image 72:GPT28P Regular Route and Southern Options



Satellite Image 73:GPT28P Northern Options





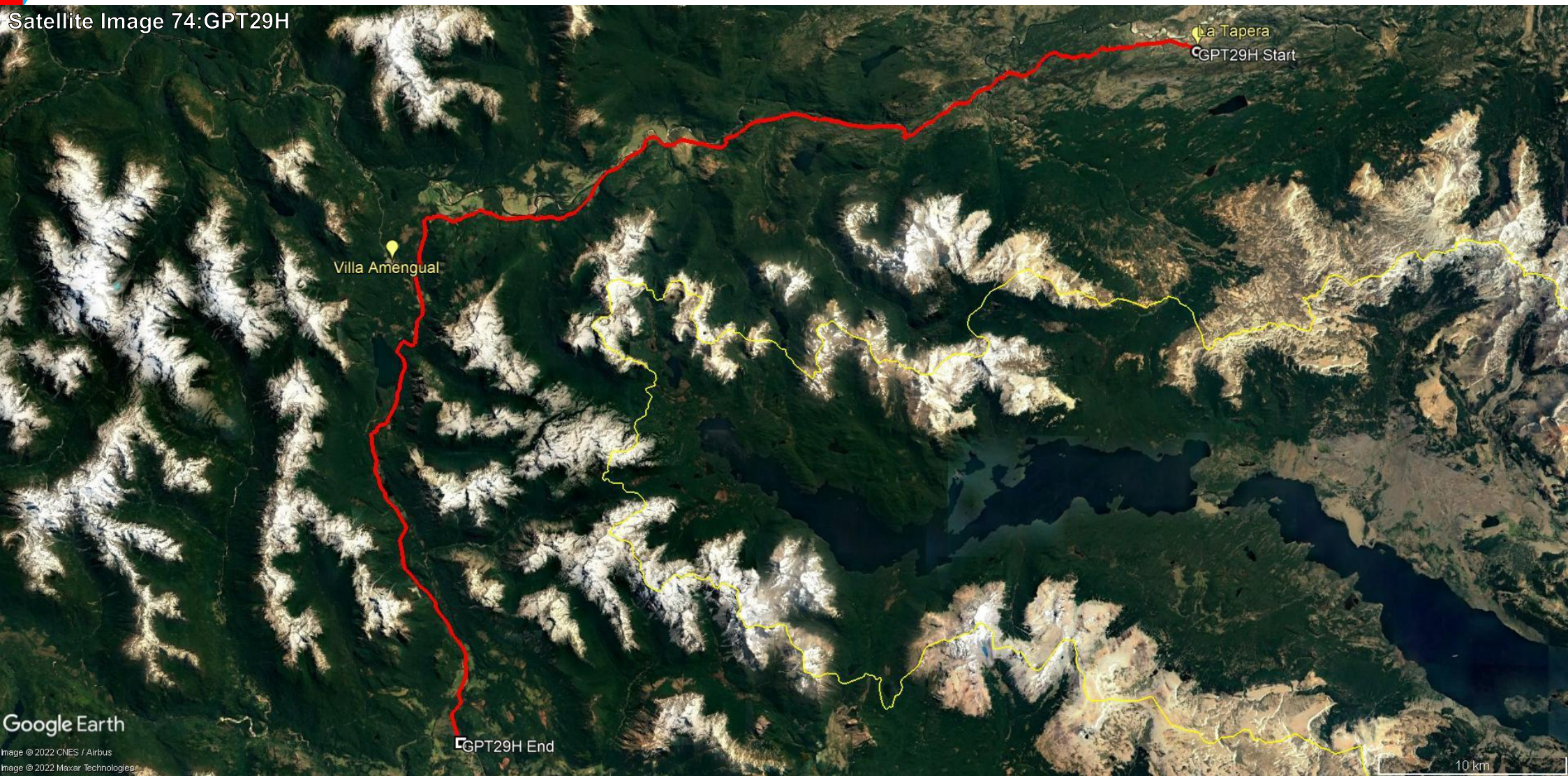
Elevation Profile 55: GPT28P Regular Packrafting Route

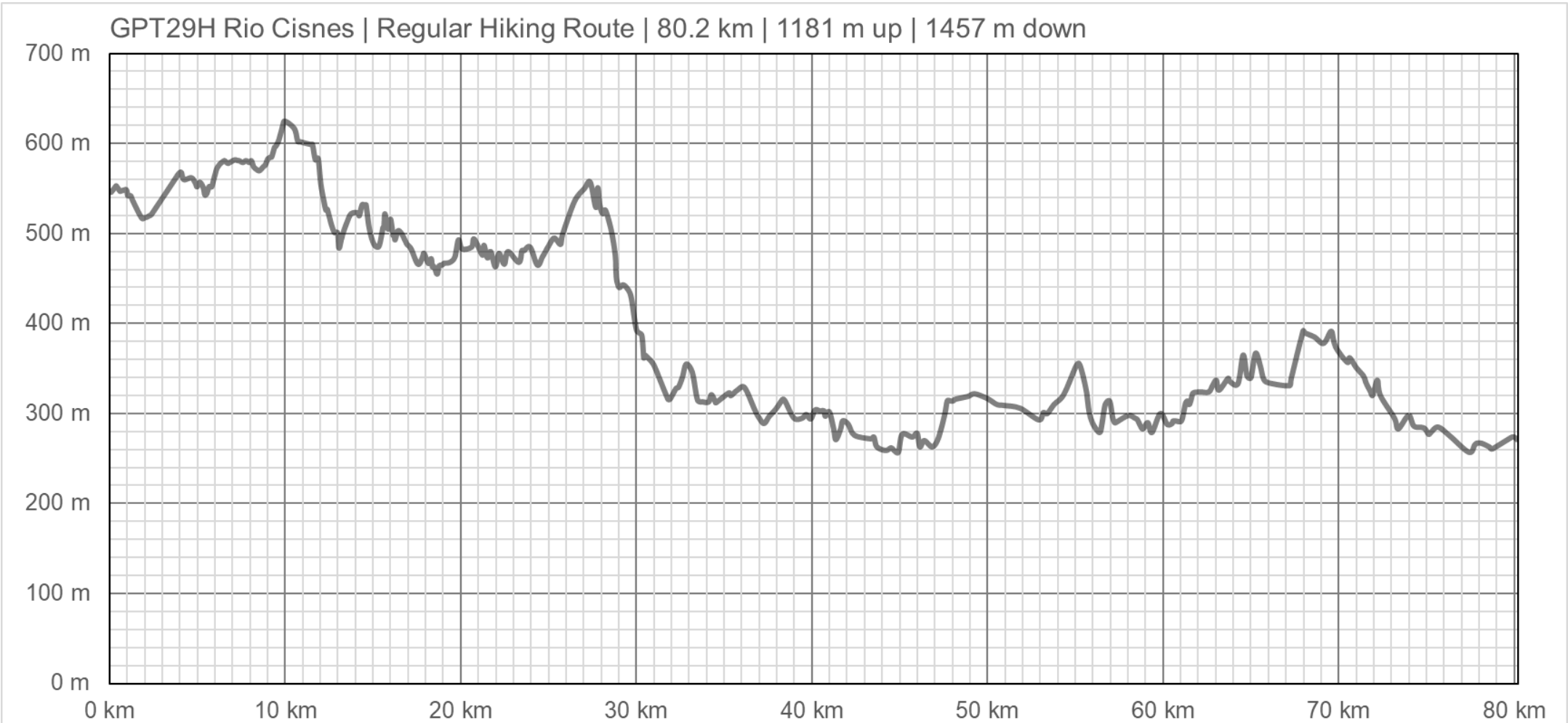
2.5.34 GPT29H: Rio Cisnes

GPT29H: Rio Cisnes				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	G: Aysen Norte		Total	**80.2 km**	**19 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	La Tapera		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Carretera Austral (Camino Picaflor)		Primary Roads (PR)	80.2 km	100.0%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT28H, GPT29P, GPT30H		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	-						

Table 96: GPT29H Section Summary

Satellite Image 74:GPT29H





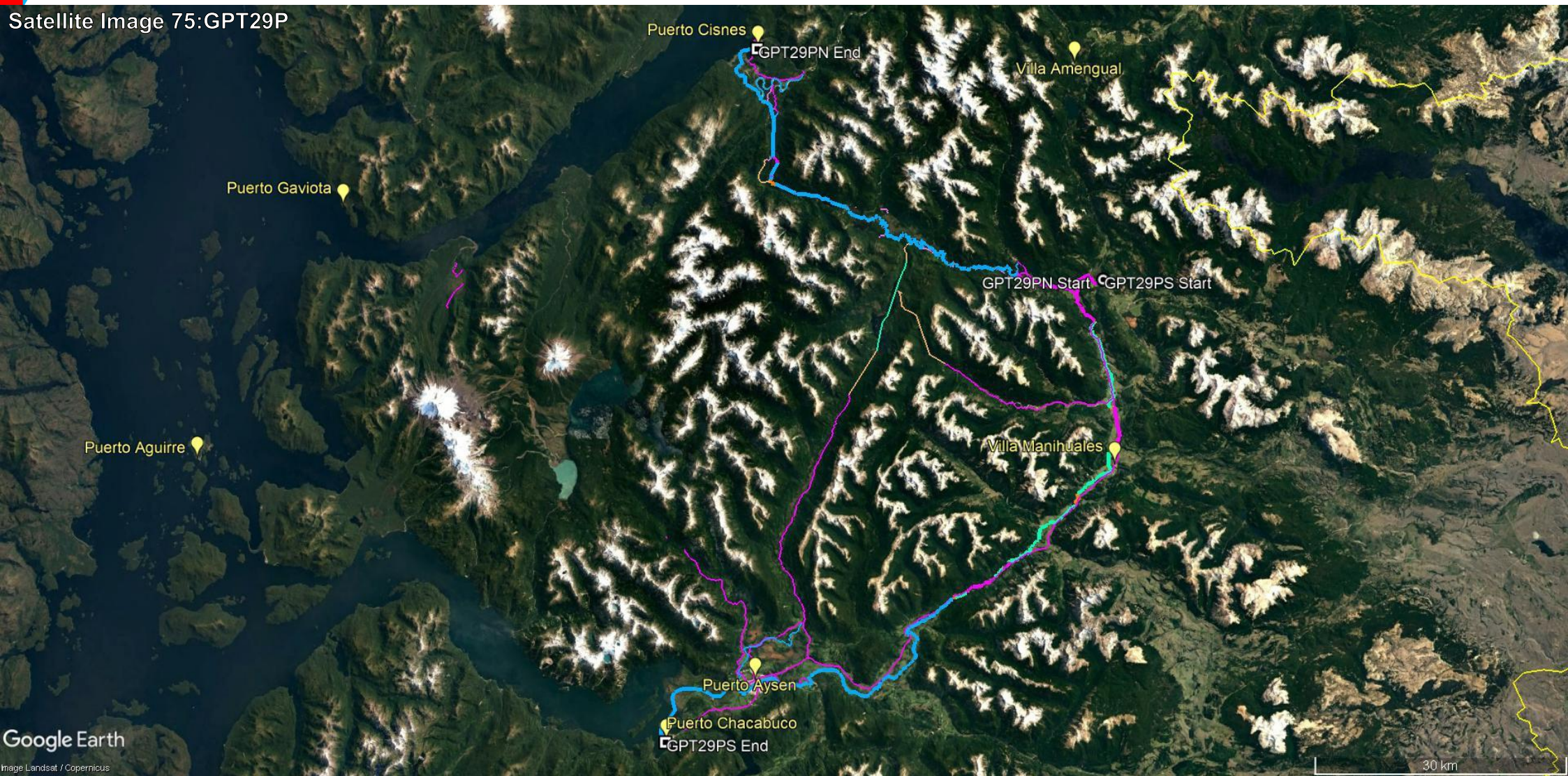
Elevation Profile 56: GPT29H Regular Route

2.5.35 GPT29P: Valle Picacho

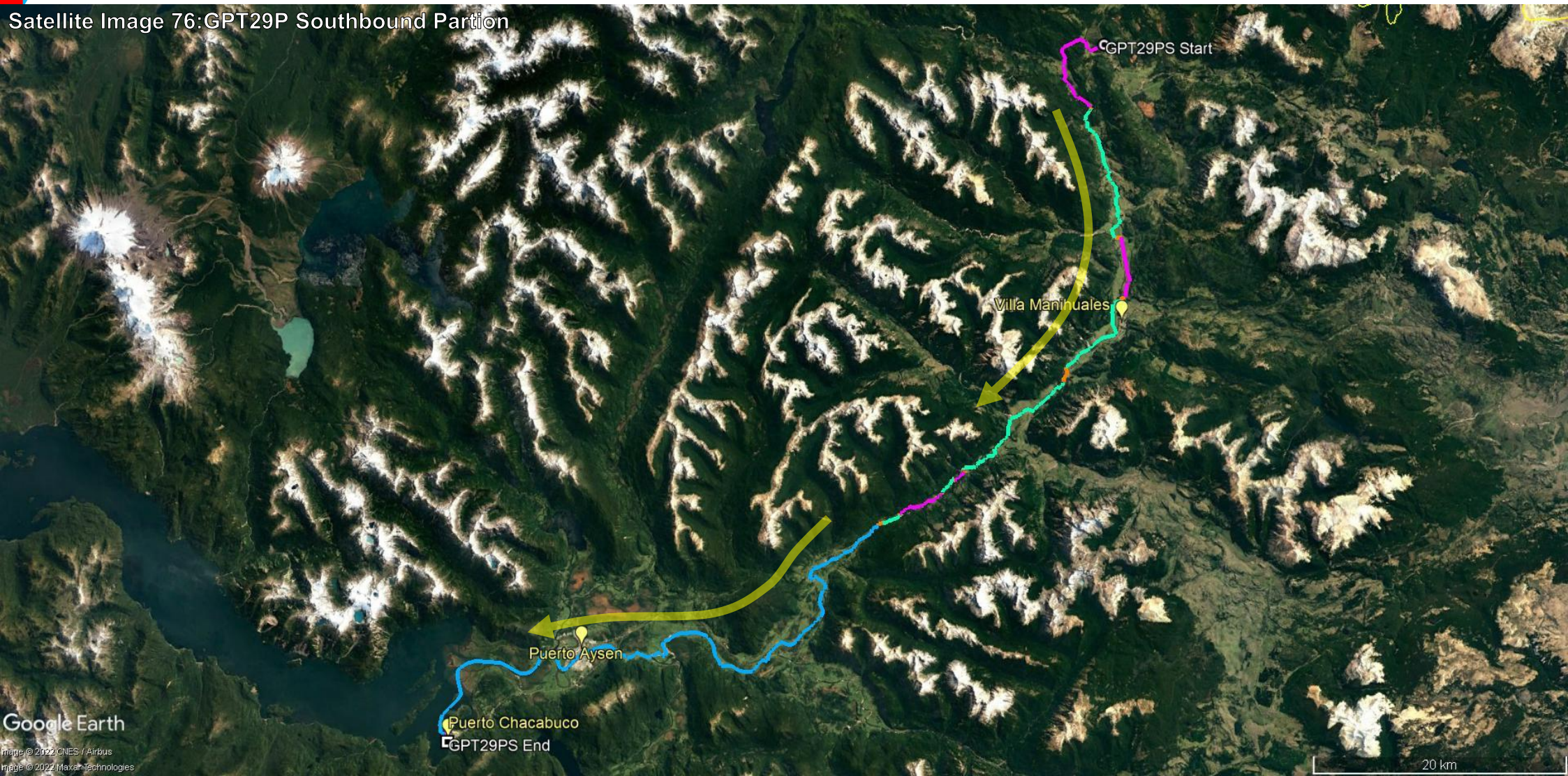
GPT29P: Valle Picacho				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	G: Aysen Norte		Total	**-**	**-**	**191.6 km**	**43 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	0.8 km	0.4%
Start	Carretera Austral (Camino Picaflor)		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	24.6 km	12.8%
Finish	Puerto Cisnes		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	10.2 km	5.3%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	3.9 km	2.0%
Traversable	Jan - Apr (Maybe: Dec, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	1.4 km	0.7%
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT28P, GPT29H, GPT30H, GPT30P, GPT31P, GPT90P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	313 km (5 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(39.5 km)	(20.6%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**150.8 km**	**78.7%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		127.0 km	66.3%
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		16.3 km	8.5%
Direction	None	Only ↑		Fjord (FJ)		7.5 km	3.9%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: Flip-Flop recommended						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	Bush Bashing, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 97: GPT29P Section Summary

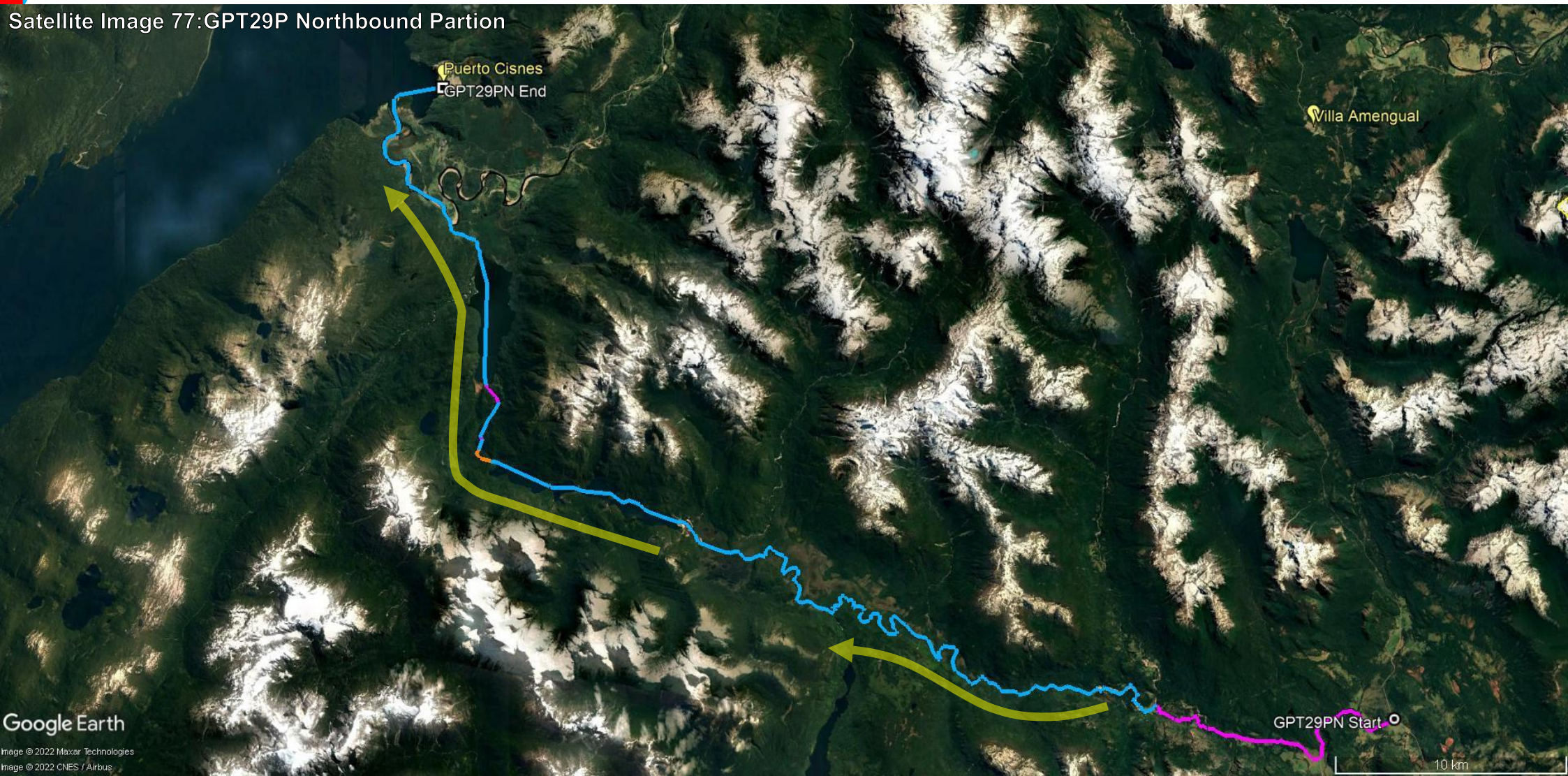
Satellite Image 75:GPT29P

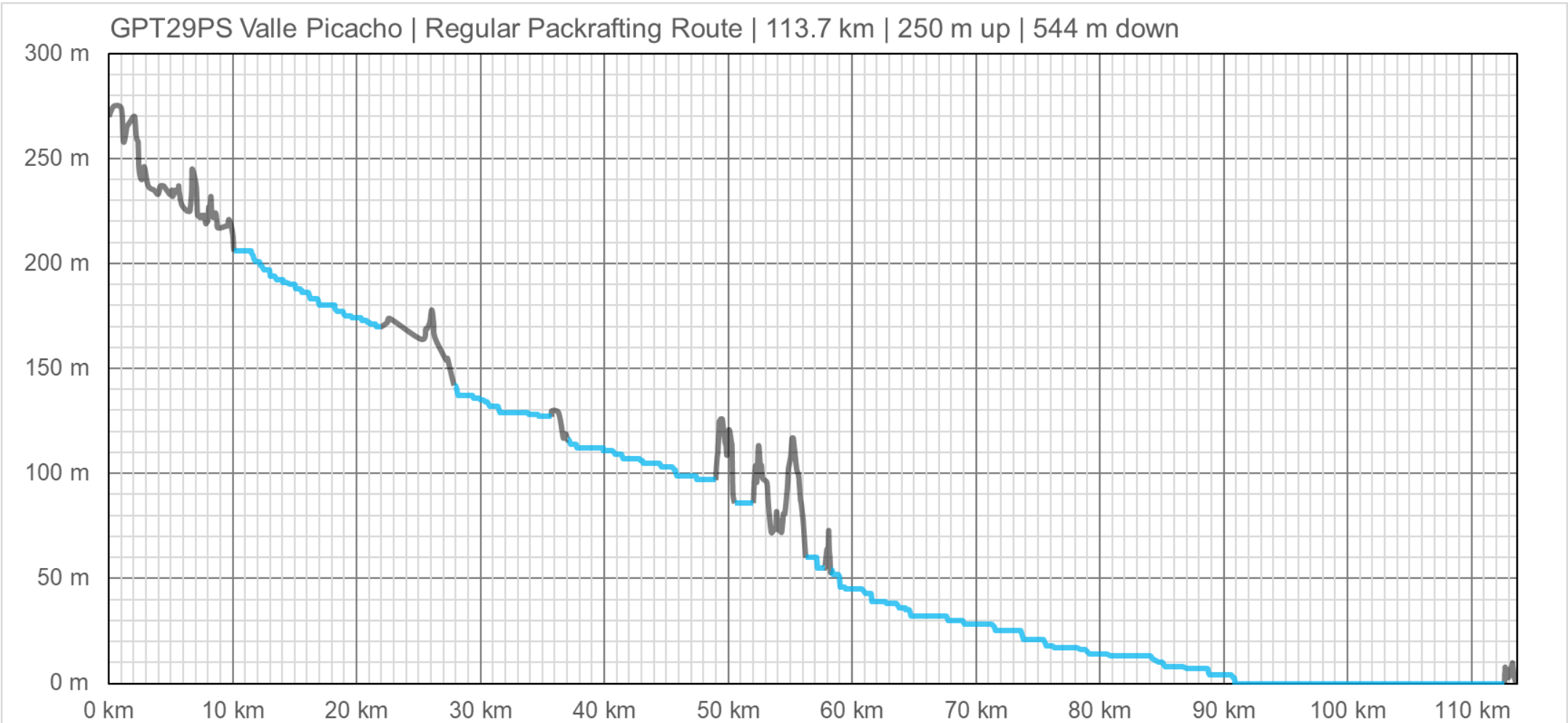


Satellite Image 76:GPT29P Southbound Partion

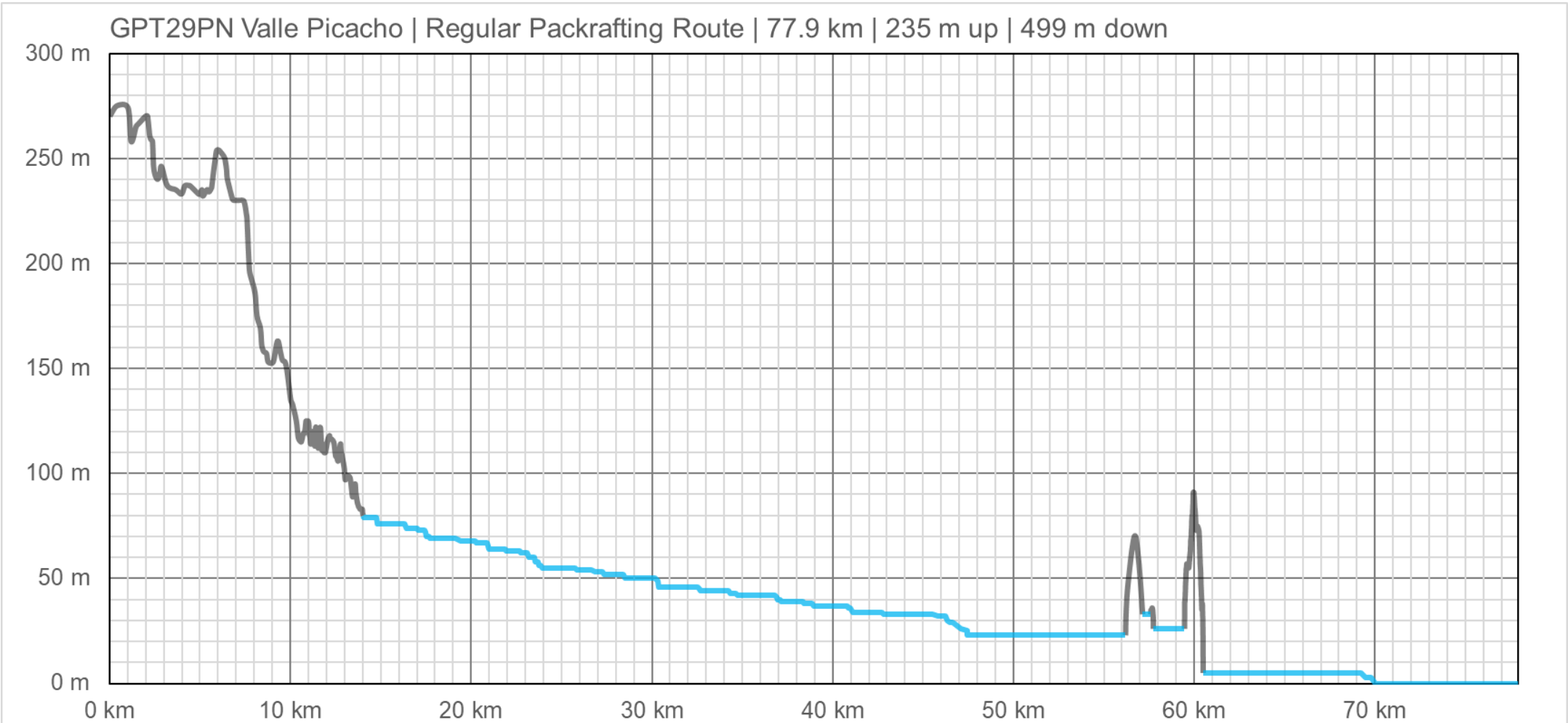


Satellite Image 77:GPT29P Northbound Partion





Elevation Profile 57: GPT29P Regular Packrafting Route: Southbound Partition



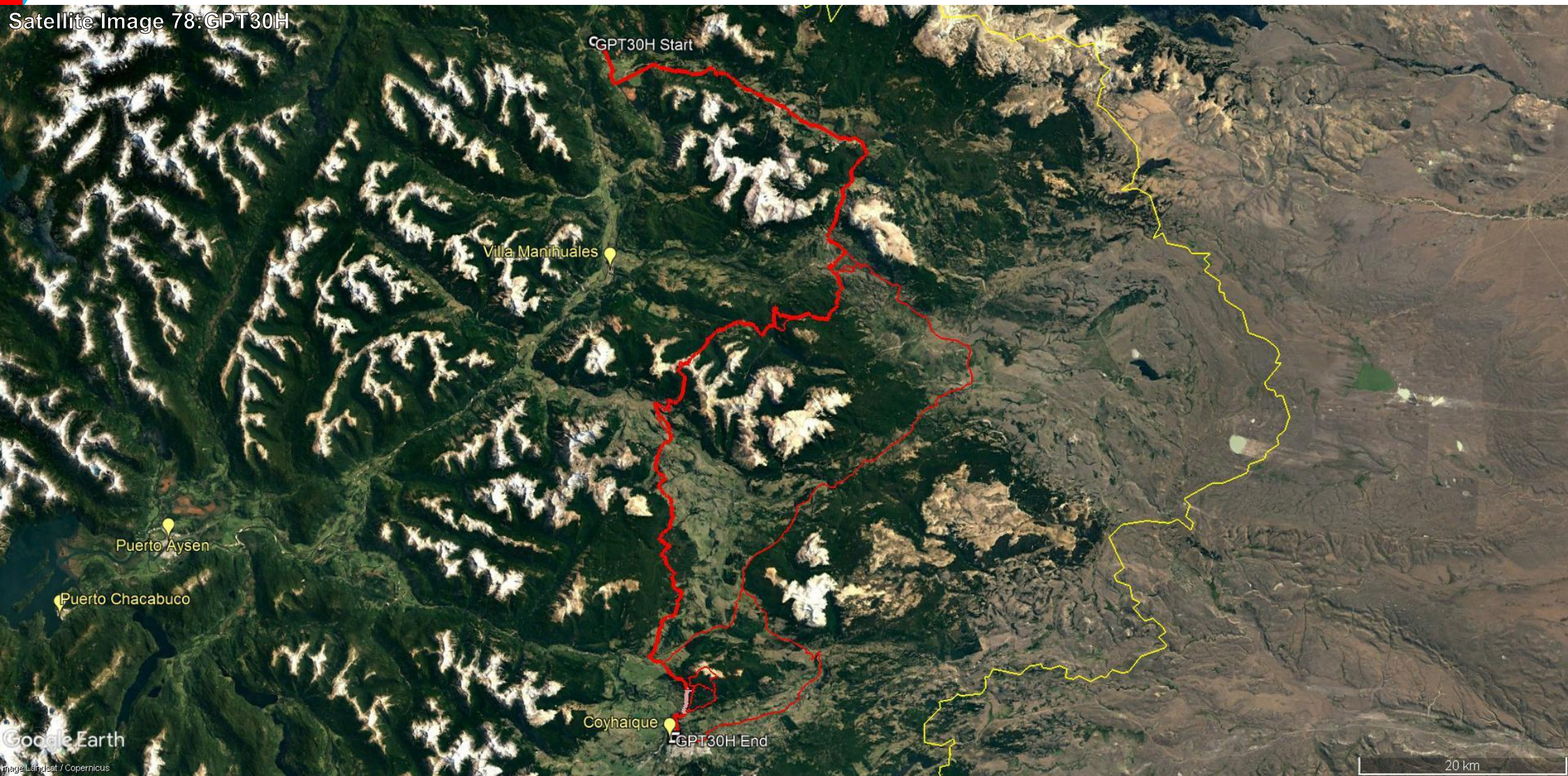
Elevation Profile 58: GPT29P Regular Packrafting Route: Northbound Partition

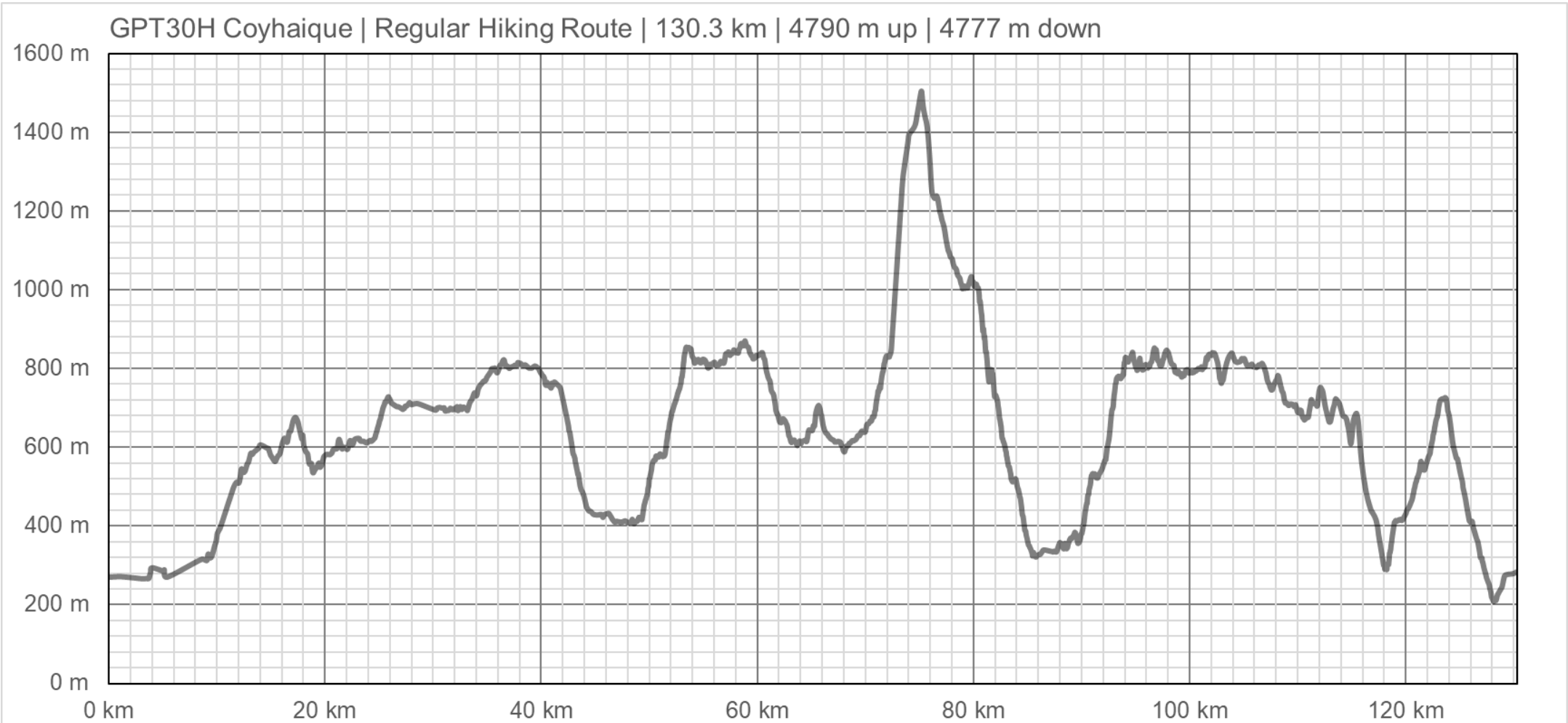
2.5.36 GPT30H: Coyhaique

GPT30H: Coyhaique				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	G: Aysen Norte		Total	**130.3 km**	**42 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	21.6 km	16.6%	-	-
Start	Carretera Austral (Camino Picaflor)		Minor Roads (MR)	41.3 km	31.7%	-	-
Finish	Coyhaique		Primary Roads (PR)	48.9 km	37.5%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	16.4 km	12.6%	-	-
Traversable	Jan - Apr (Maybe: Nov, Dec, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	2.2 km	1.7%	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT29H, GPT29P, GPT31H		Investigation (I)	(2.4 km)	(1.8%)	-	-
Options	128 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Resupply Distance						

Table 98: GPT30H Section Summary

Satellite Image 78:GPT30H



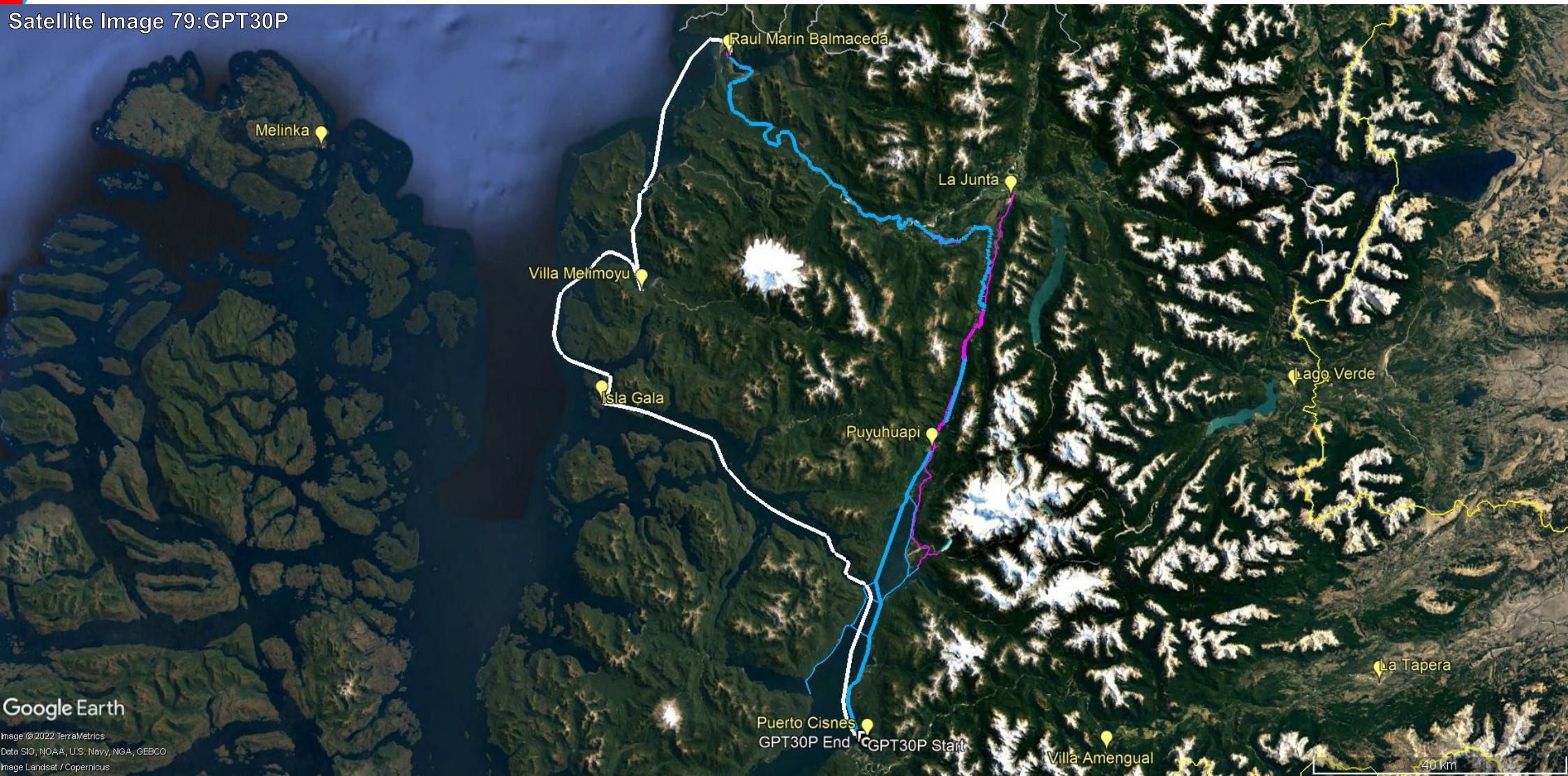


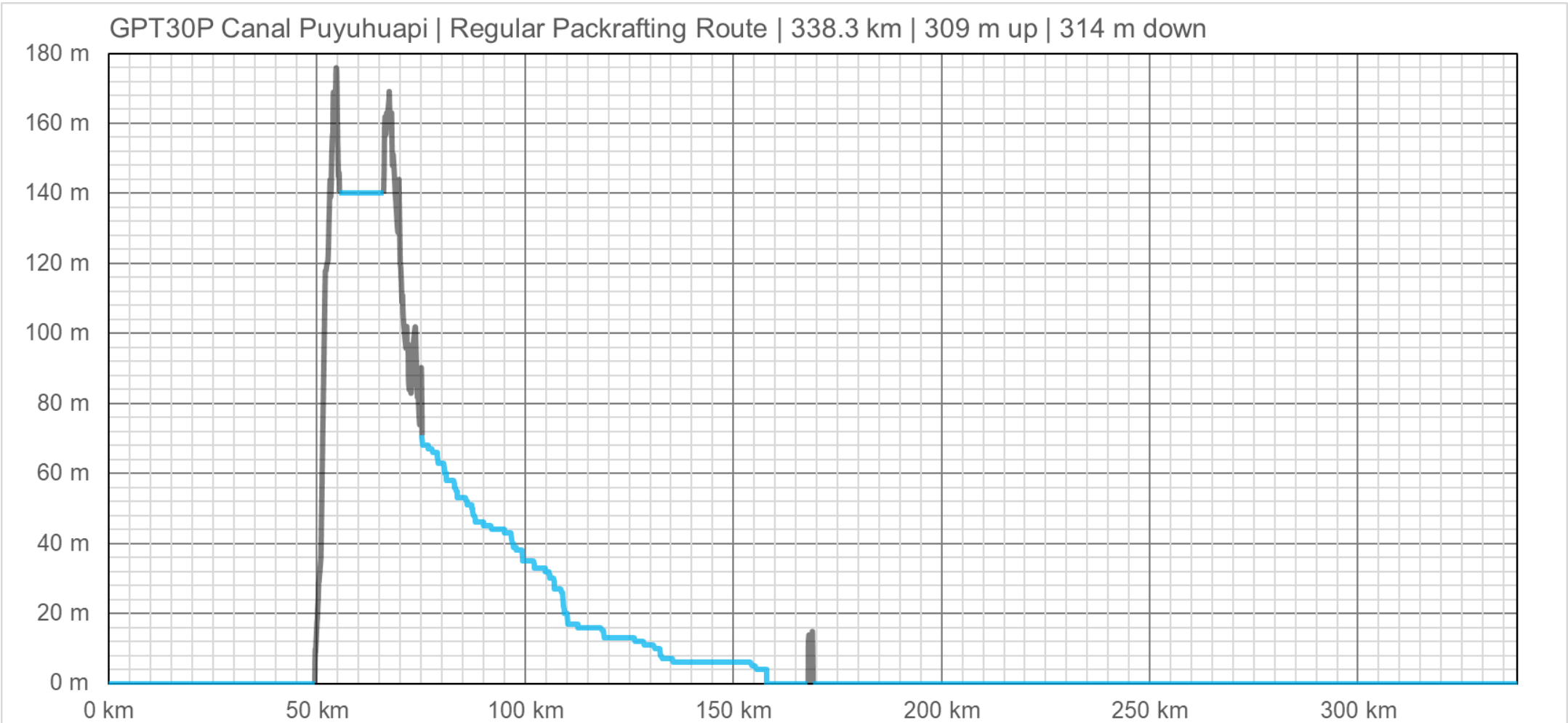
Elevation Profile 59: GPT30H Regular Route

2.5.37 GPT30P: Canal Puyuhuapi

GPT30P: Canal Puyuhuapi				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	F: Sector Palena		Total	**-**	**-**	**169.1 km**	**41 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Puerto Cisnes		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	1.8 km	1.0%
Finish	Puerto Cisnes		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	14.3 km	8.5%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.2 km	0.1%
Traversable	Jan - May (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	(169.2 km)	(50.0%)
Connects to	GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT28H, GPT28P, GPT29P, GPT31P, GPT75P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	133 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**152.7 km**	**90.3%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		82.8 km	49.0%
Difficulty	-	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		10.6 km	6.2%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		59.3 km	35.1%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↑ More packraft use						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Hot Springs, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 99: GPT30P Section Summary


Satellite Image 79:GPT30P
Raul Marin Balmaceda
Melinka
La Junta
Villa Melimoyu
Isla Gala
Lago Verde
Puyuhuapi
La Tapera
Puerto Cisnes
GPT30P End
GPT30P Start
Villa Amengual
Google Earth
Image © 2022 TerraMetrics
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
40 km

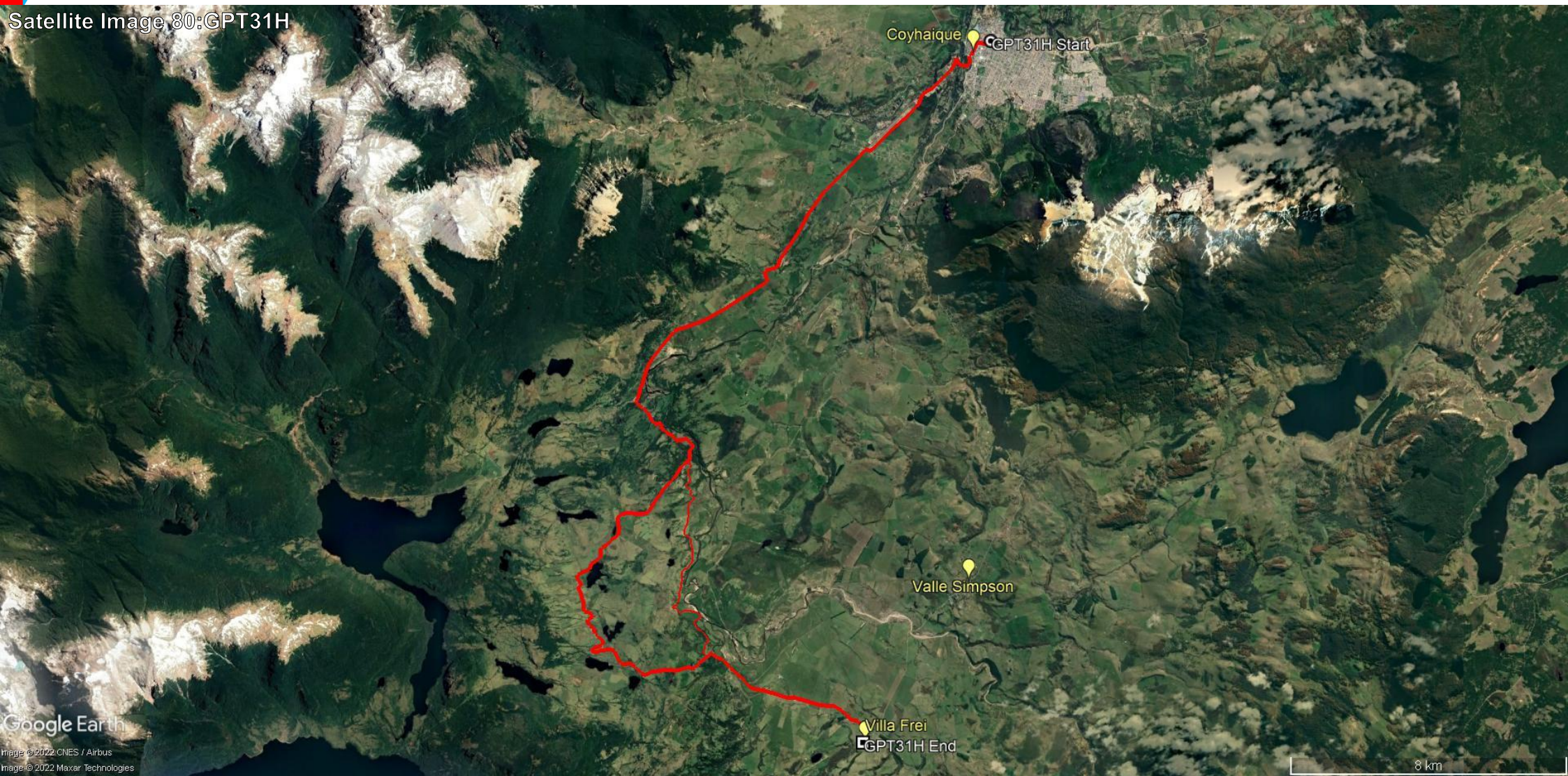


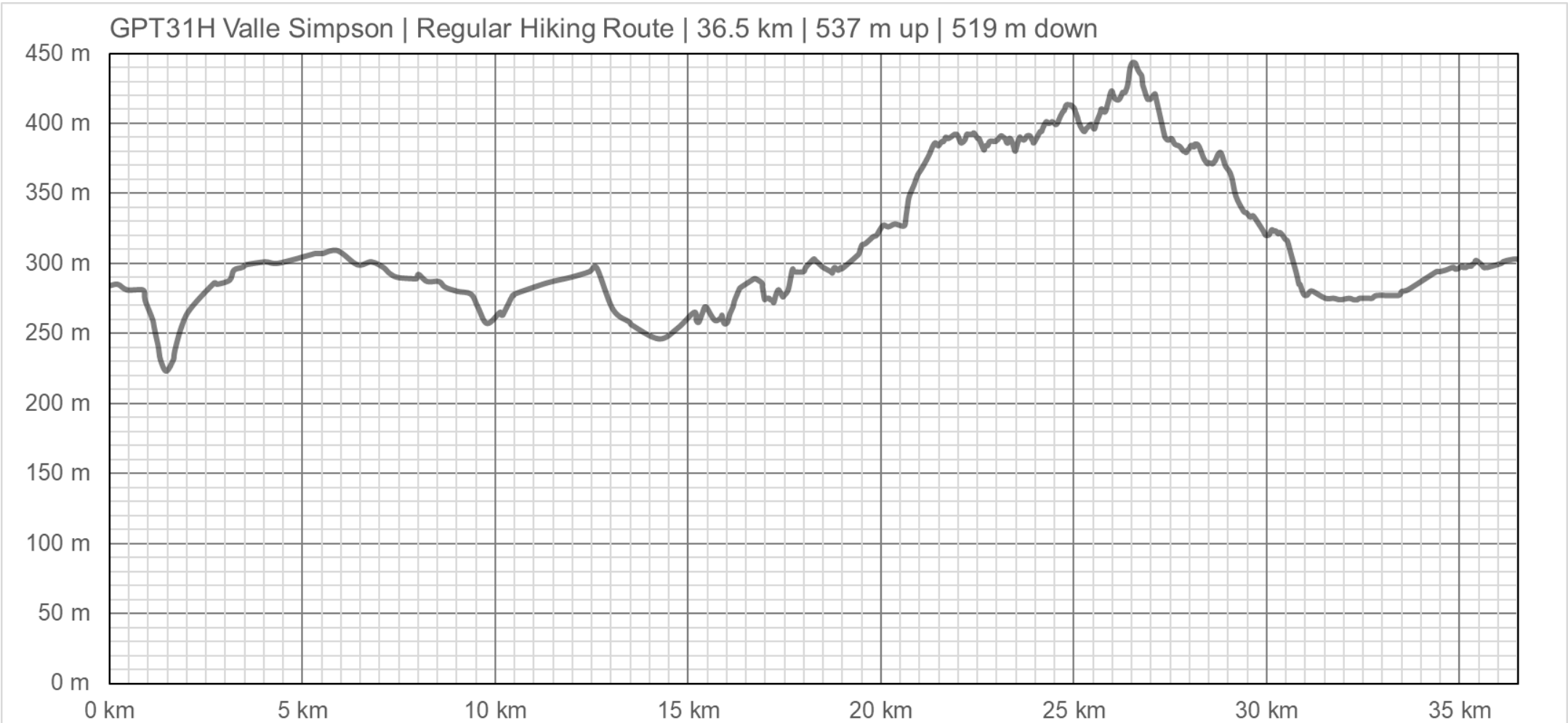
Elevation Profile 60: GPT30P Regular Packrafting Route without Ferry

2.5.38 GPT31H: Valle Simpson

GPT31H: Valle Simpson				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	G: Aysen Norte		Total	**36.5 km**	**9 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Coyhaique		Minor Roads (MR)	20.6 km	56.5%	-	-
Finish	Villa Frei		Primary Roads (PR)	15.9 km	43.5%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT30H, GPT31P, GPT32		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	8 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	-						

Table 100: GPT31H Section Summary


Satellite Image 80:GPT31H
Coyhaique
GPT31H Start
Valle Simpson
Villa Frei
GPT31H End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
8 km

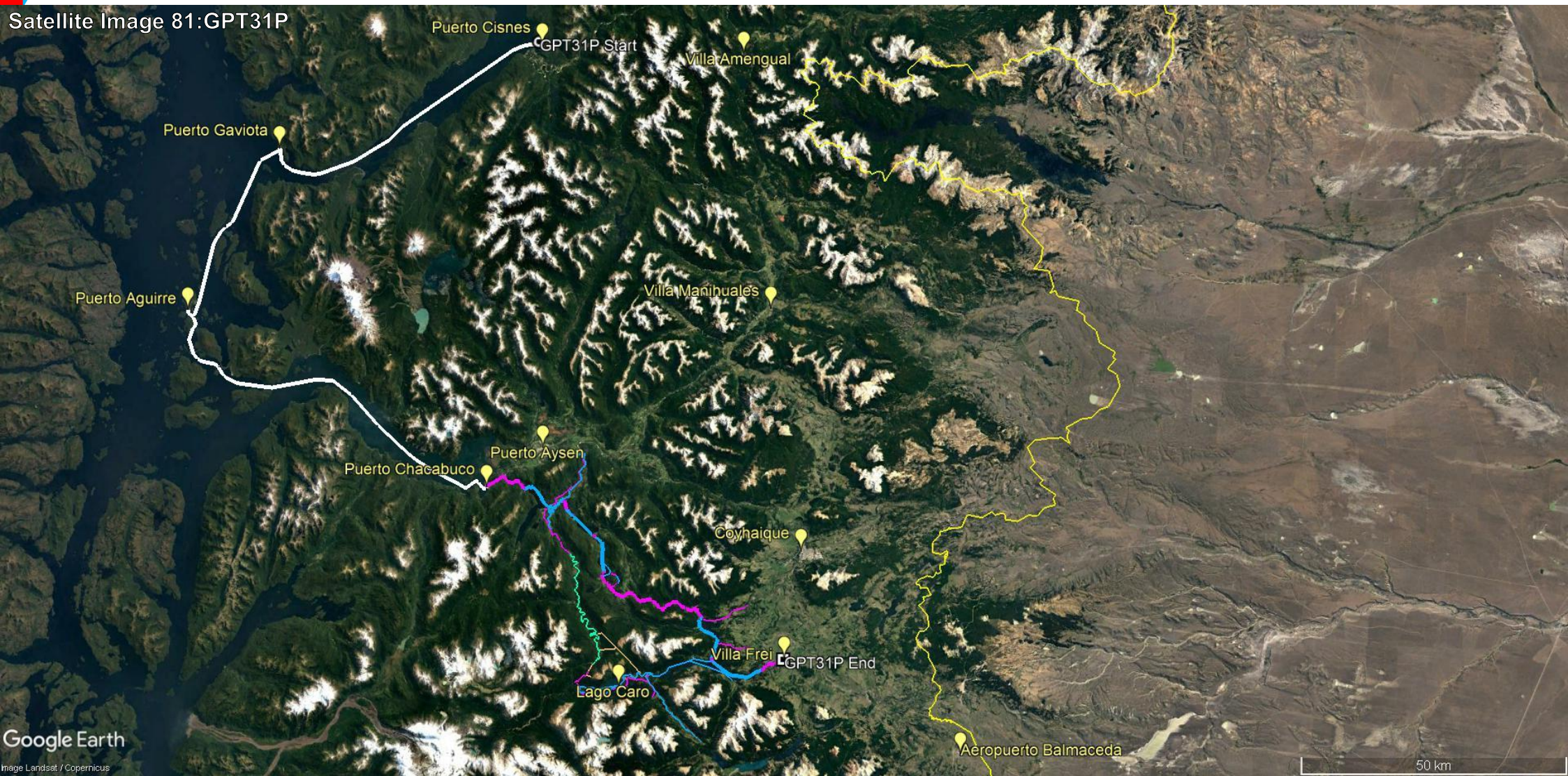


Elevation Profile 61: GPT31H Regular Route

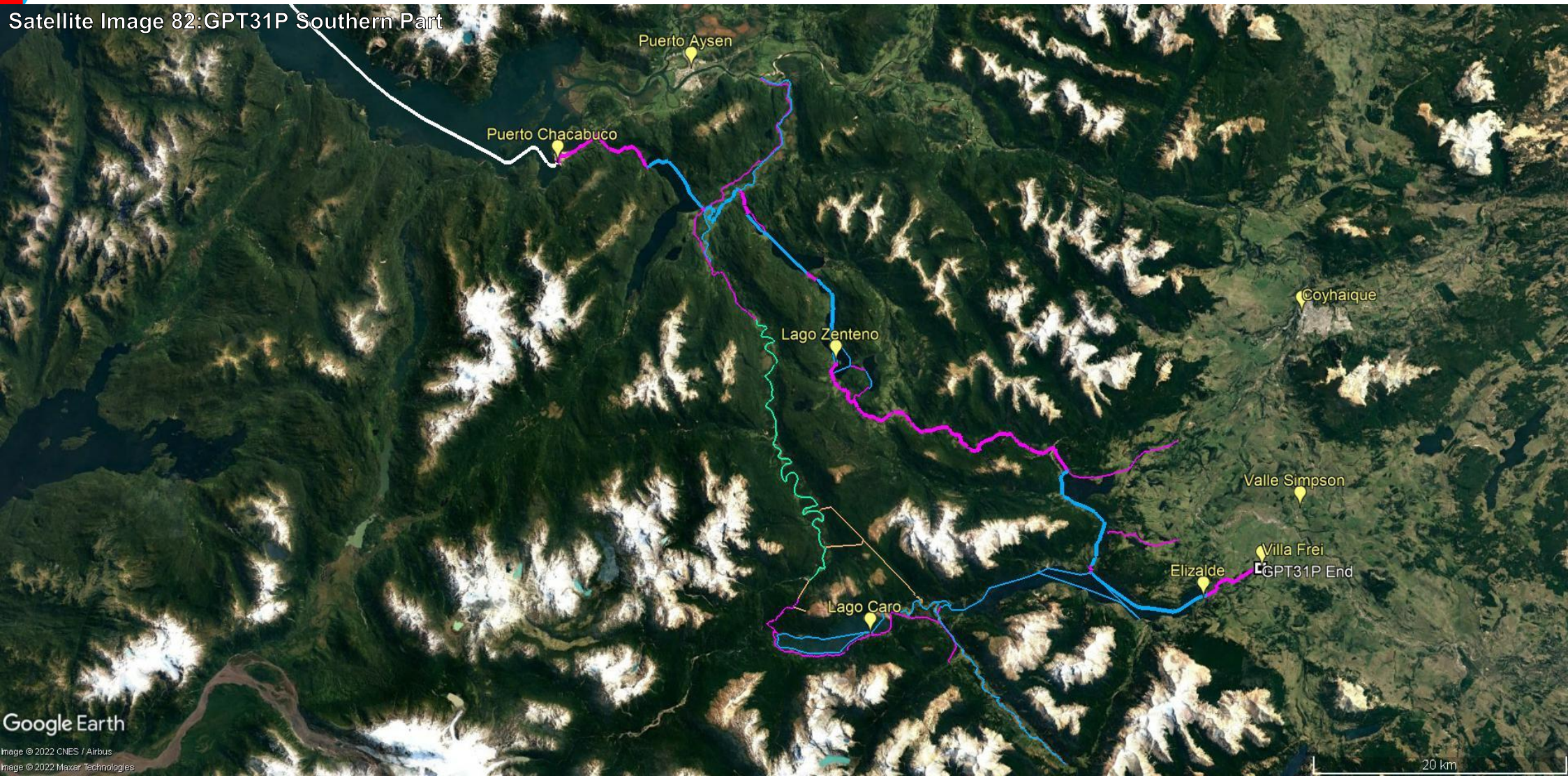
2.5.39 GPT31P: Lagos de Aysen

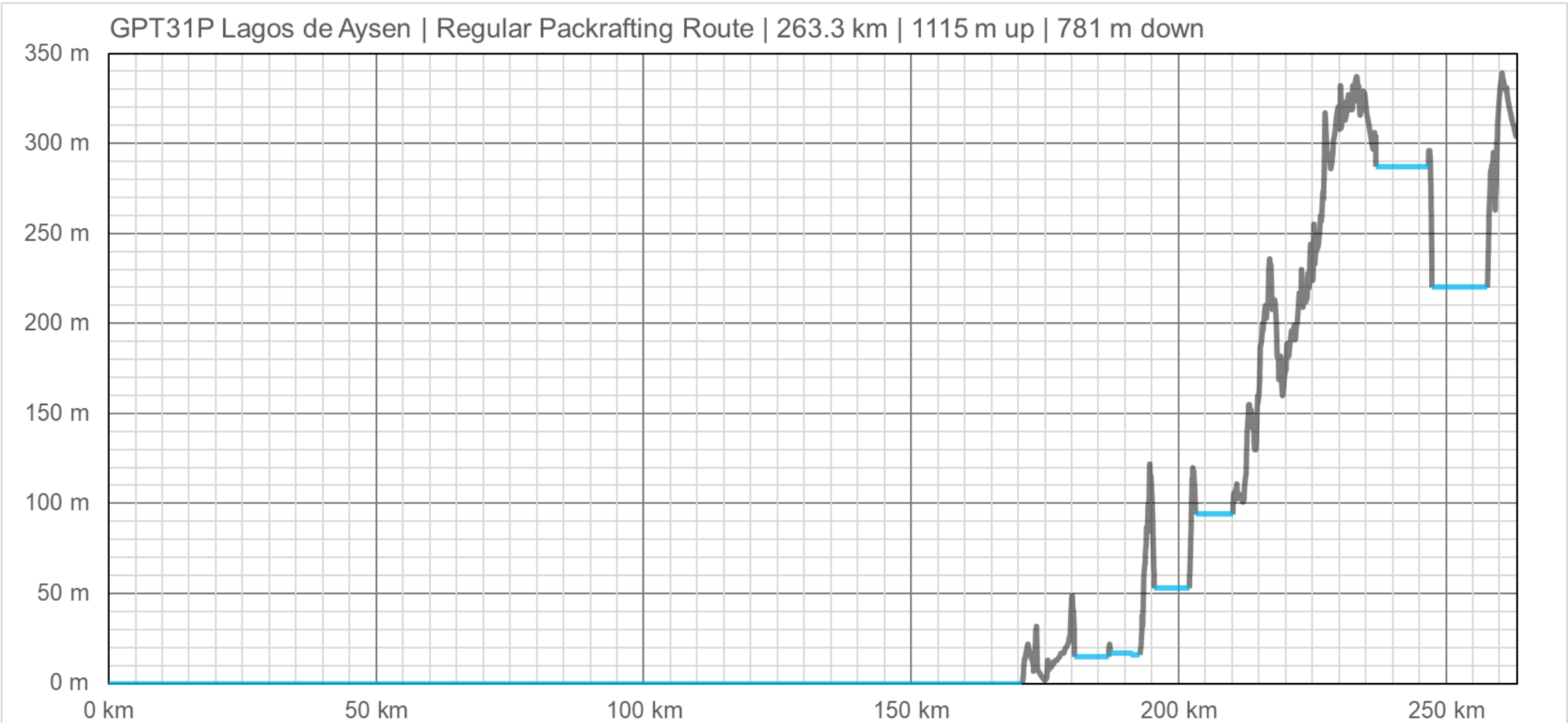
GPT31P: Lagos de Aysen				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	G: Aysen Norte		Total	**-**	**-**	**92.6 km**	**25 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	0.6 km	0.7%
Start	Puerto Cisnes		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	40.9 km	44.1%
Finish	Villa Frei		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	4.3 km	4.6%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.7 km	0.8%
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	0.4 km	0.5%
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	(170.7 km)	(64.8%)
Connects to	GPT28P, GPT29P, GPT30P, GPT31H, GPT32, GPT90P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	229 km (5 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**45.7 km**	**49.3%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		5.5 km	6.0%
Difficulty	-	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		40.2 km	43.4%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↓ Recommended, ↑ Exploration option						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Bush Bashing						

Table 101: GPT31P Section Summary


Satellite Image 81:GPT31P
Puerto Cisnes
GPT31P Start
Villa Amengual
Puerto Gaviota
Puerto Aguirre
Villa Manihuales
Puerto Aysen
Puerto Chacabuco
Coyhaique
Villa Frei
GPT31P End
Lago Caro
Aeropuerto Balmaceda
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
50 km

Satellite Image 82:GPT31P Southern Part



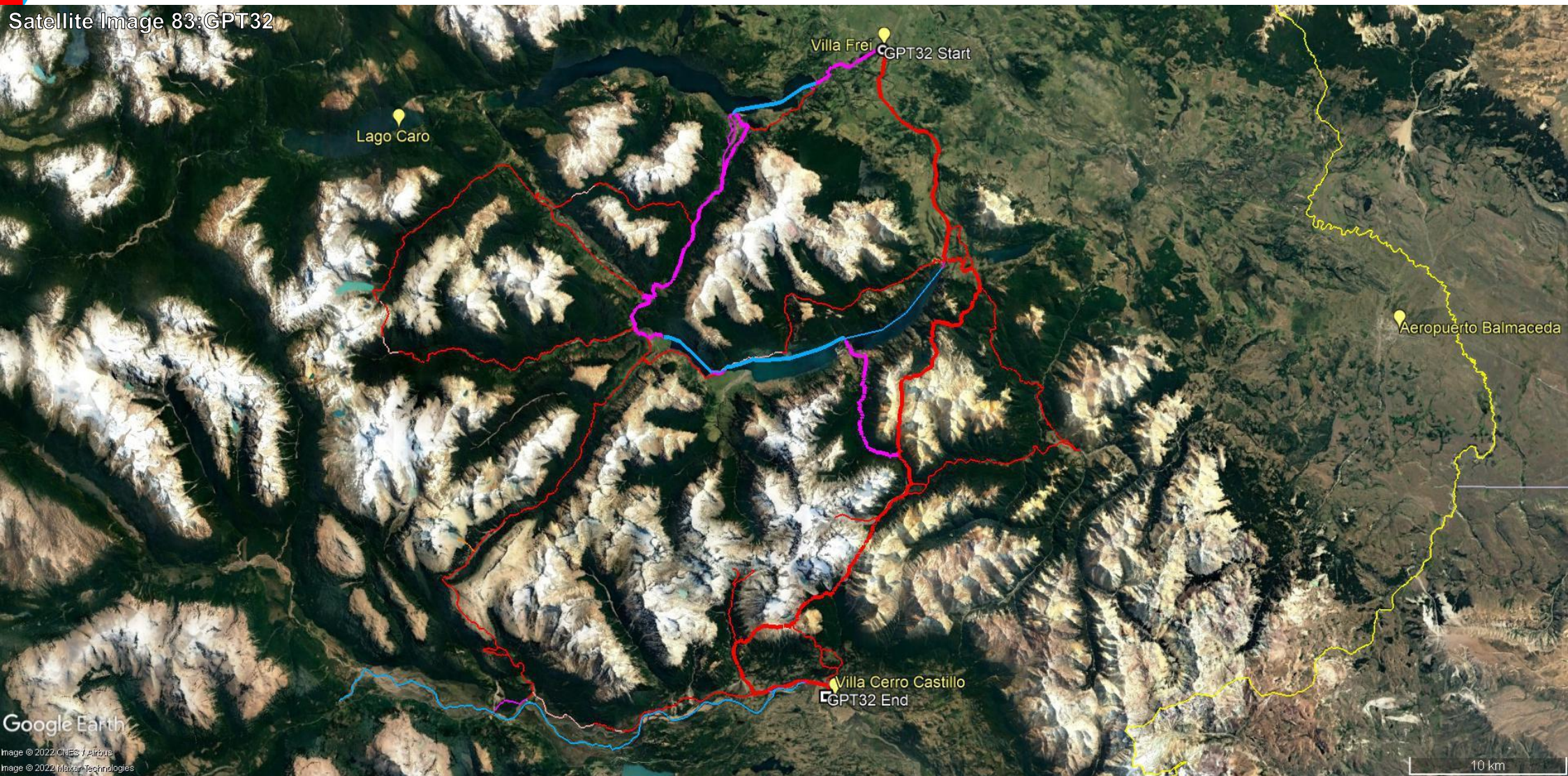


Elevation Profile 62: GPT31P Regular Packrafting Route

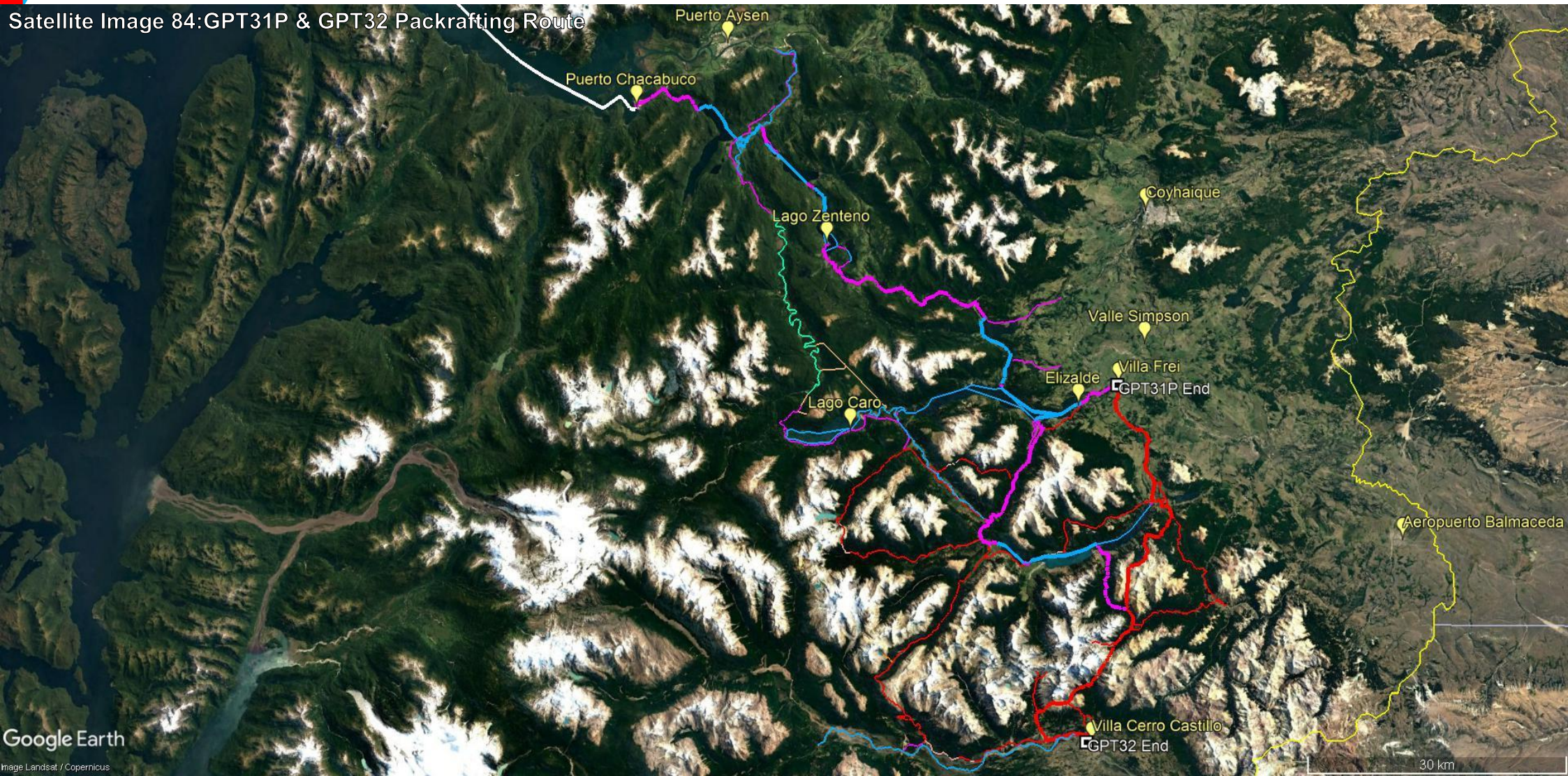
2.5.40 GPT32: Cerro Castillo

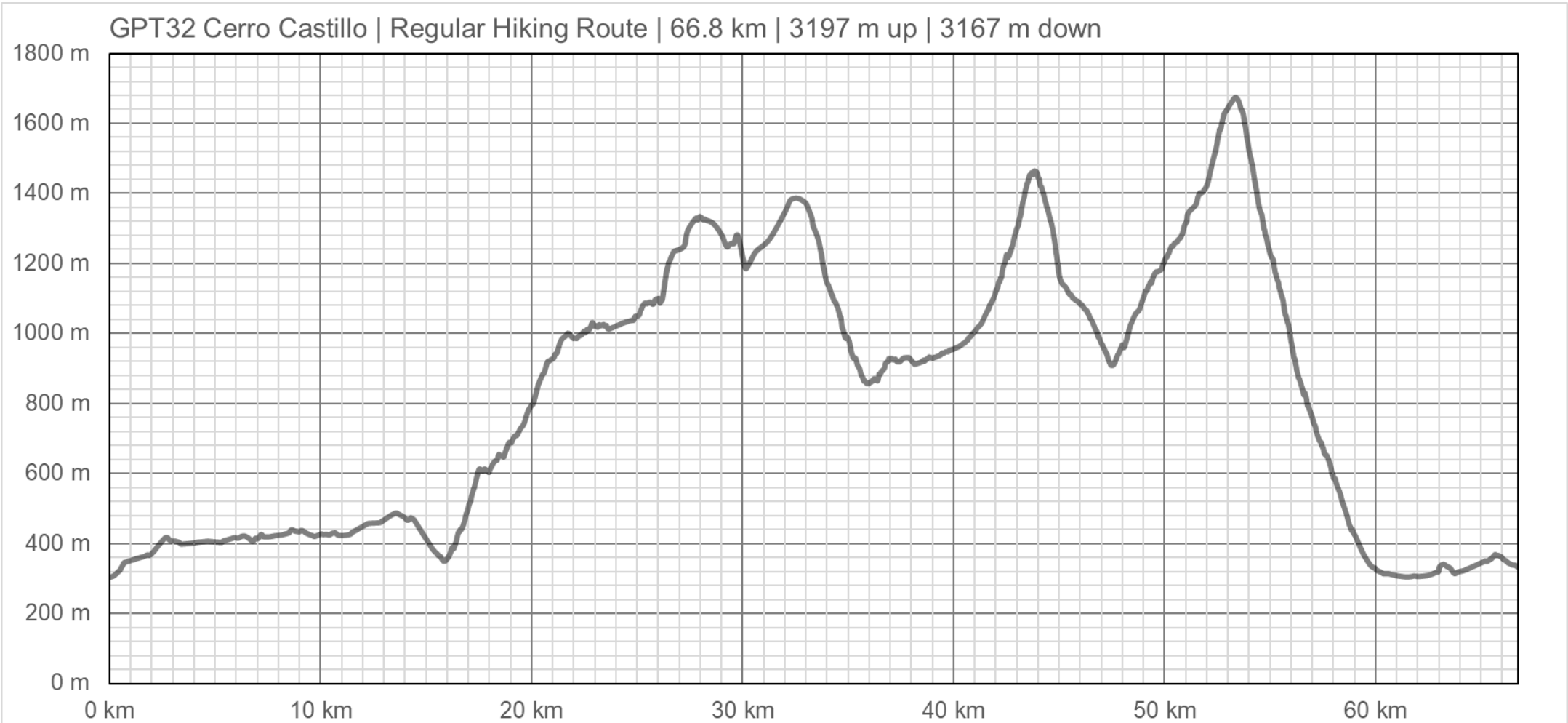
GPT32: Cerro Castillo				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**66.8 km**	**23 h**	**89.5 km**	**30 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	23.1 km	34.6%	21.8 km	24.3%
Start	Villa Frei		Minor Roads (MR)	32.4 km	48.5%	44.5 km	49.7%
Finish	Villa Cerro Castillo		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	11.0 km	16.5%	4.3 km	4.8%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	0.3 km	0.4%	1.4 km	1.6%
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT31H, GPT31P, GPT33H, GPT33P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	313 km (10 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**17.5 km**	**19.6%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	5 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		17.5 km	19.6%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Alpine Terrain, Farmland, Settlers, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation						

Table 102: GPT32 Section Summary

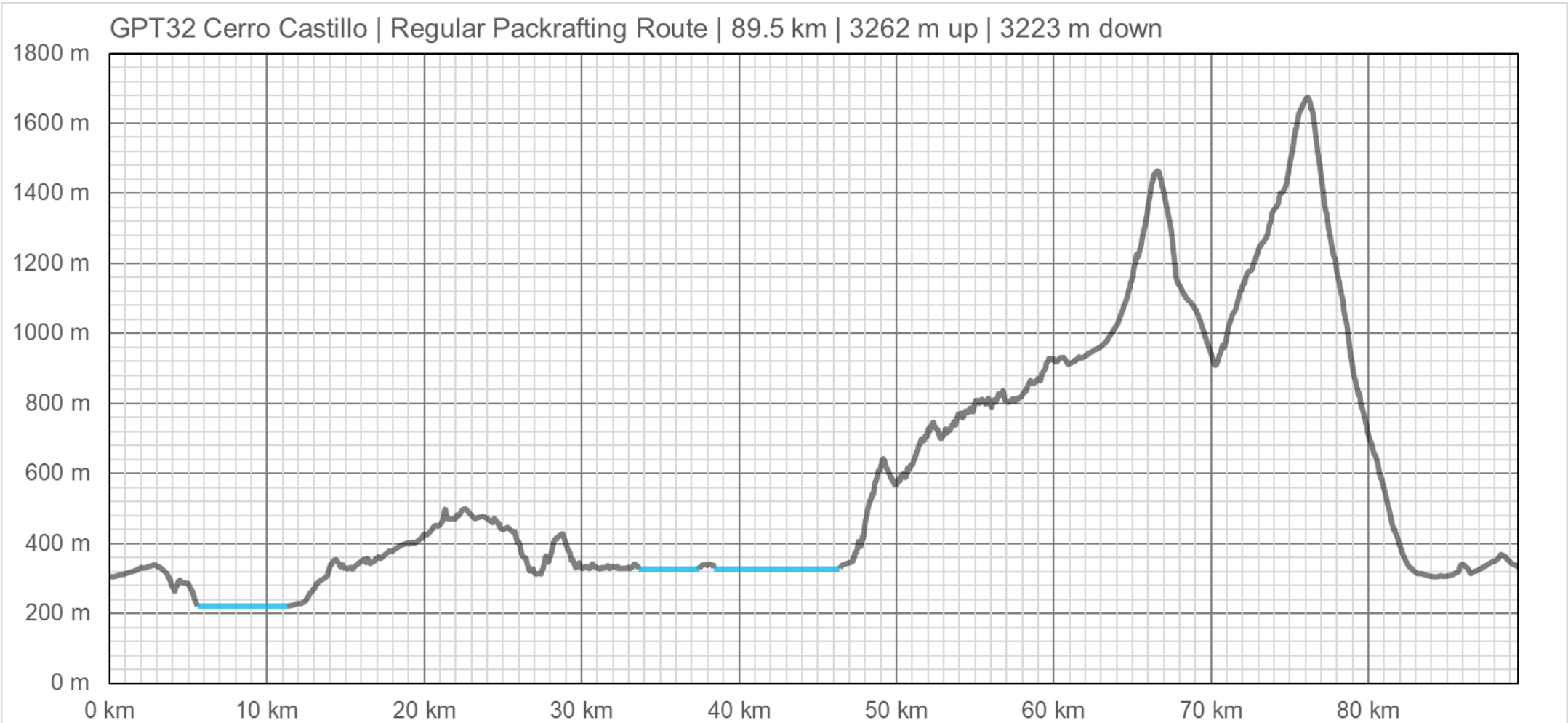

Satellite Image 83:GPT32
Villa Frei
GPT32 Start
Lago Caro
Aeropuerto Balmaceda
Villa Cerro Castillo
GPT32 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km

Satellite Image 84:GPT31P & GPT32 Packrafting Route





Elevation Profile 63: GPT32 Regular Hiking Route

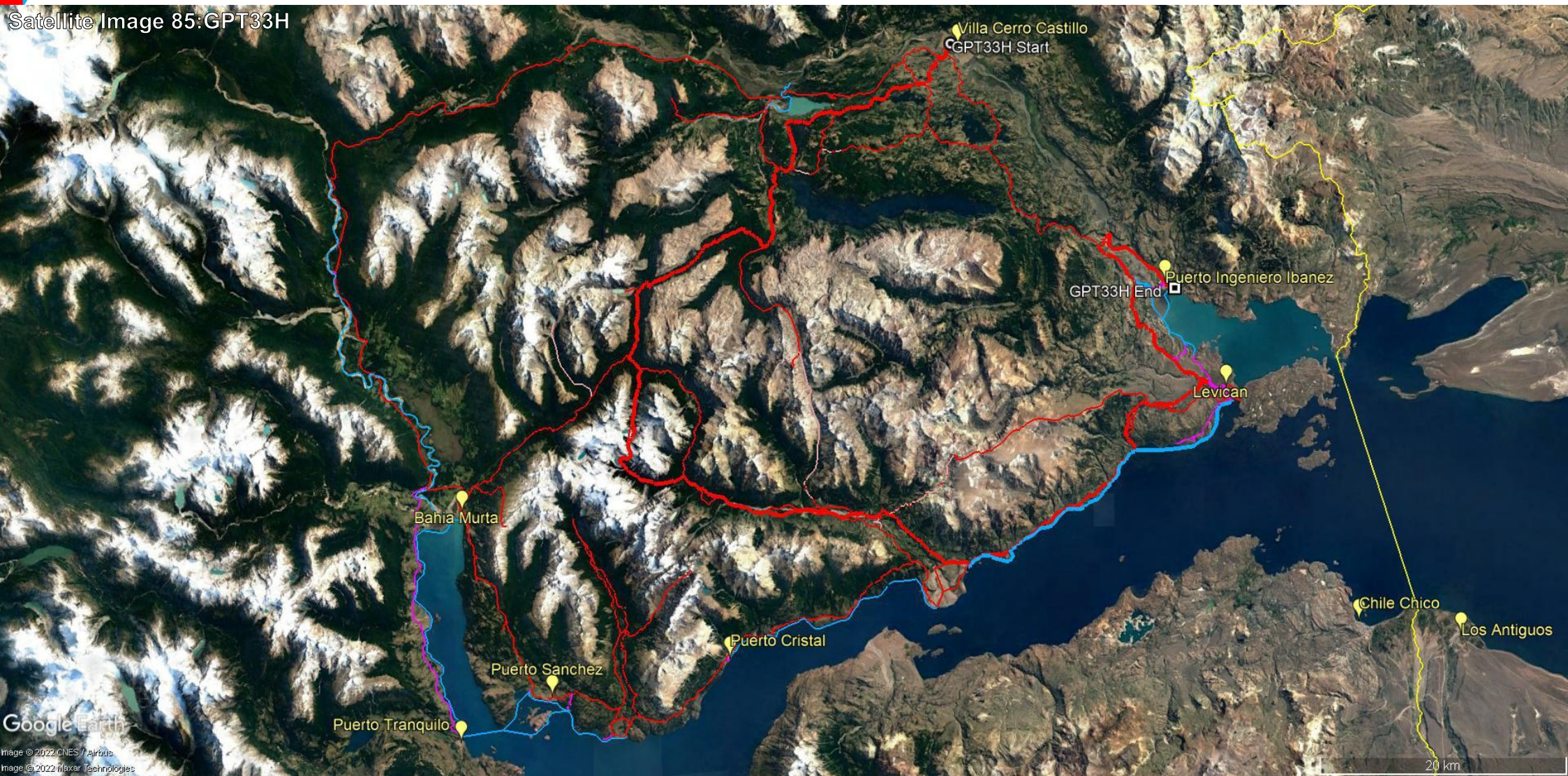


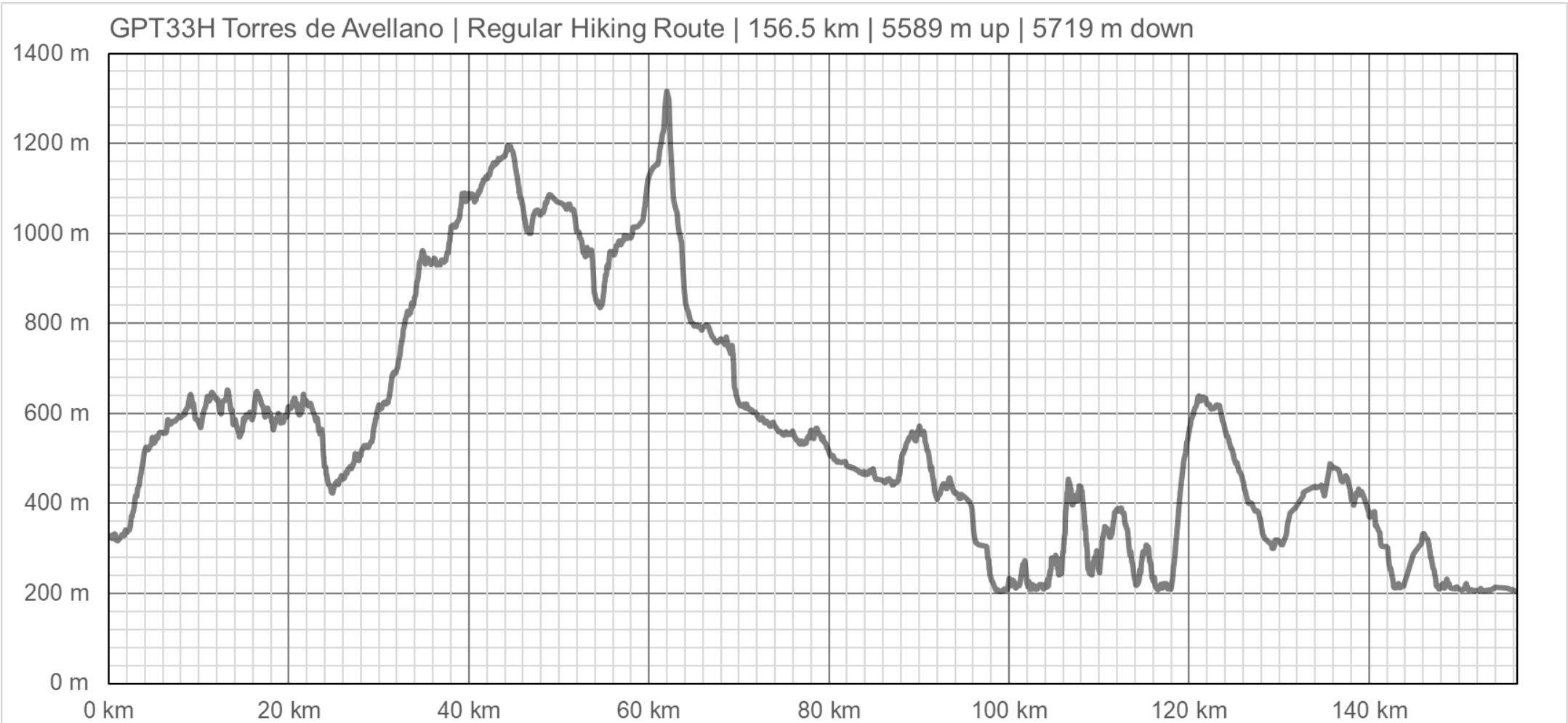
Elevation Profile 64: GPT32 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.41 GPT33H: Torres de Avellano

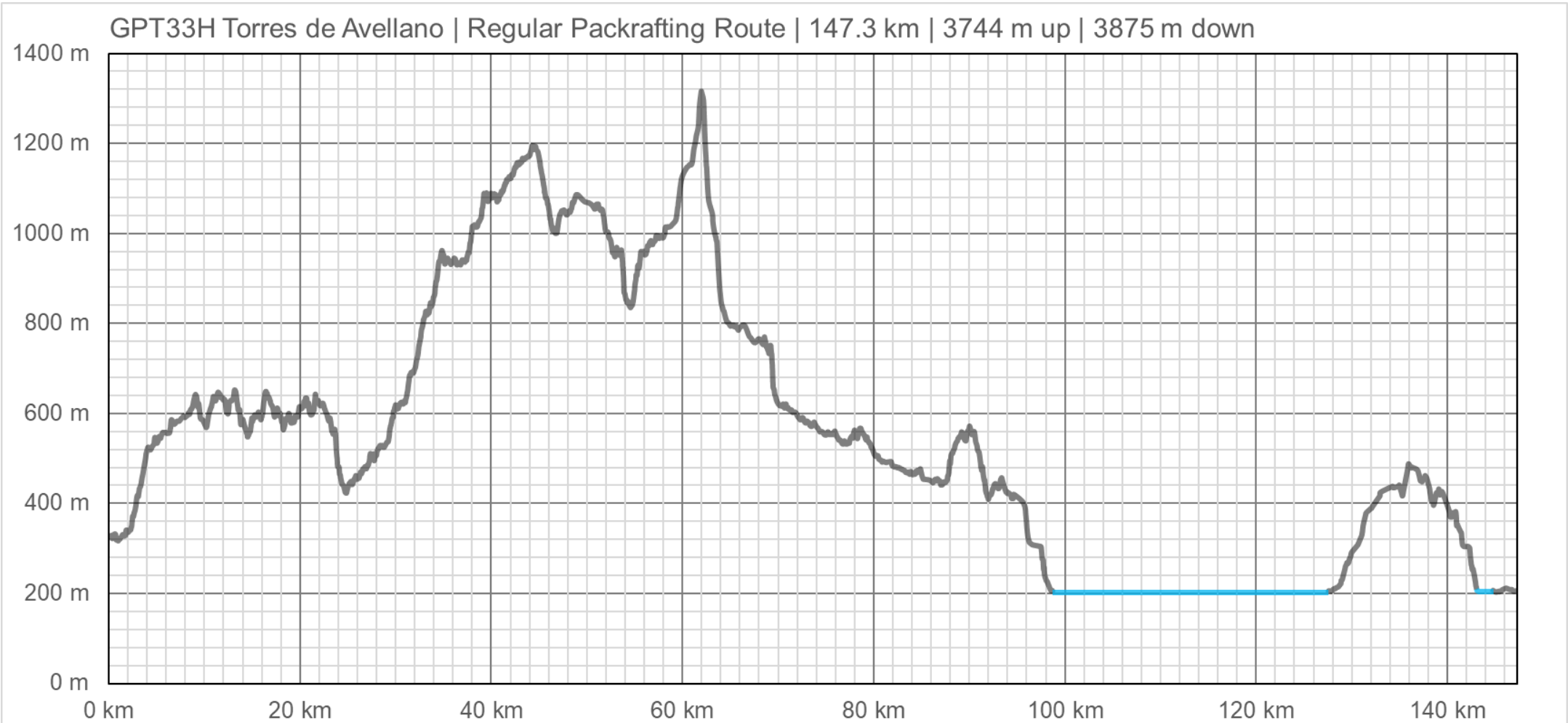
GPT33H: Torres de Avellano				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**156.5 km**	**48 h**	**147.3 km**	**44 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	44.9 km	28.7%	25.5 km	17.3%
Start	Villa Cerro Castillo		Minor Roads (MR)	93.0 km	59.4%	73.5 km	49.9%
Finish	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)		Primary Roads (PR)	3.8 km	2.4%	2.4 km	1.6%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	14.4 km	9.2%	15.1 km	10.2%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	0.4 km	0.2%	0.4 km	0.3%
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT32, GPT33P, GPT34H, GPT34P, GPT80P, GPT81P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	665 km (13 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**30.5 km**	**20.7%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		1.7 km	1.2%
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		28.8 km	19.6%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Semi-Desert, Forest, Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Mountain Pastures, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance						

Table 103: GPT33H Section Summary


Satellite Image 85:GPT33H
Villa Cerro Castillo
GPT33H Start
Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez
GPT33H End
Levican
Bahia Murta
Chile Chico
Los Antiguos
Puerto Cristal
Puerto Sanchez
Puerto Tranquilo
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
20 km



Elevation Profile 65: GPT33H Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 66: GPT33H Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.41.1 Summary

The Torres de Avellano are an assembly of granite towers that rise 1000 m into the sky. Glaciers are nested on the flanks of these mountains and glacier lakes compose the base of this panorama. The Torres de Avellano display an epic beauty coequal to the world-famous Torres del Paine but the wild beauty of the Torres de Avellano comes without the hype and the large hordes of visitors. Therefore, hikers can enjoy this hidden treasure undisturbed and without the restrictions of an overrun and heavily regulated national park.



Picture 355: Torres de Avallano. Image: Jan Dudeck

This highlight is embedded in a diverse route that traverses the semi-desert of the Patagonian Pampa, sneaks along the shore of the largest lake of Chile and provides a taster of the settler’s culture.

2.5.41.2 Section Attractiveness

The in 2020 published Regular Route of GPT33H combines an exceptional diversity of landscapes:

- The tree-less semi-desert of the Patagonian Pampa
- Lush green forests
- Wide open pastures above the tree-line
- Tall mountains and granite towers
- Glaciers that grind on these mountains and carved several glacier lakes
- Swamps and crystal-clear rivers
- Idyllic farmland with settlers that move on horseback
- A huge wind-battered lake that feels like open sea

Despite these attractions the number of visitors remains low and the few hikers normally walk a fraction of this route only.

This diversity makes section GPT33H a highlight of the GPT with an **Attractiveness Rating 5 of 5**.

Some hikers might find the long gravel roads on both ends of the regular route annoying even if the traffic is insignificant. Hikers with a strong aversion to road walking should consider taking a motorized transport. Trying to hitchhike is also an option but chances to catch a ride are relatively low. Therefore, keep walking while signaling your interest to hitchhike to the occasionally passing vehicles.

2.5.41.3 Section Difficulty

The regular route incorporates 2 km of cross country walking through steep piles of boulders [RR-CC-A@33H-62.1+1.9] and around 0.4 km of bush bashing [RR-BB-A@33H-64.0+0.4]. Another 4 km [RR-CC&BB-A@33H-64.4+4.2] require a mix of cross country walking and bush bashing partly through swamps. Therefore, hikers that feel uncomfortable clambering over rocks and smashing through vegetation may opt to walk only to the pass [Pass 1310m @33H-62.2], enjoy the view of the Torres de Avellano, backtrack on the same route to diversion [Div @33H-54.6] and then follow GPT33H Option 2 which is a less demanding trail in the valley along Rio Avellano [OH-TL-V@33H-02-#001].

The regular route also climbs to 1300 m altitude where weather can become hostile even in summer. Therefore, the elevated and exposed part of the Regular Route should only be hiked in decent weather. GPT33H Option 2 is a lower, less exposed trail that provides a bypass around the Torres de Avellano in case of poor climatic conditions [OH-TL-V@33H-02-#001].

Some trails are rarely used, poorly maintained and therefore difficult to follow. In particular trail [RR-TL-V@33H-54.6+2.5] and [RR-TL-V@33H-68.6+1.4] are partly vaguely visible. Here hikers should frequently consult their GPS to not lose these trails.

Rio Avellano must be crossed at least once [Ford (Rio Avellano) @33H-81.4]. These fords of Rio Avellano might be difficult or unsafe at times. Therefore, good judgement and a careful selection of river crossing locations is essential. The flow rate of this glacier feed river is normally lower in the morning and on colder cloudy days. If a river crossing on foot appears unsafe i.e. after heavy rain or on hot sunny days (accelerated melting of glaciers) you may ask the settlers for help. The settlers normally ford this river on horseback.

The trail along the shore of Lago General Carrera is partly on the edge of steep cliffs. Hikers with vertigo (acrophobia / fear of height) will find these trail segments scary and tripping in these parts can be fatal.

The length of this section requires a good amount of food that makes the backpack heavy at the beginning.

Due to the above listed challenges the **Difficulty Rating** is **5 of 5**.

2.5.41.4 Section Planning Status

The Regular Route of GPT33H was completely redrawn in 2020 to incorporate the Torres de Avellano into the GPT. Most of the new Regular Route was hiked by the founders of the GPT in February 2020 and the remaining unverified gravel roads of the Regular Route are clearly visible on satellite images. Therefore, the **Regular Route** can be considered **verified**.

2.5.41.5 Recommended Travel Period

The **Regular Route** is best hiked **between December and March**. Potential obstacles are high river levels during snowmelt till November and fresh snow in the elevated area at the Torres de Avellano starting from April or May.

The substantially shorter optional route GPT33H **Option 1** is in the vicinity of Rio Ibañez and can be hiked **all year around**.

2.5.41.6 Permits, Entry Fees and Right-of-Way Issues

To walk section GPT33H a permit is **not required**, and no entry fee is charged. There are no known right-of-way conflicts.

To my knowledge paddling on Lago General Carrera requires a permit from the Armada de Chile but complying with all requirements might not be possible even for a well equipped packrafter (i.e. distress signal rockets).

2.5.41.7 Section Length and Travel Duration

The **157 km** long Regular Route can be walked in approximately 8 hiking days.

Taking a motorized transport or hitchhiking is generally feasible to shorten the road walking on both ends of the Regular Route. This can shorten the travel duration by up to two days. Starting or finishing at the Carretera Austral near Laguna Verde eliminates 18 km and starting or finishing near Levicán reduces the walking distance by 26 km.

2.5.41.8 Recommended Travel Direction

Northbound and southbound hiking is feasible and recommended.

If the travel direction can be chosen freely than a northbound hike seems slightly preferable. Halfway on this section, right at the Torres de Avellano the route leads 2 km through a boulder field. It seems favorable to cross this area uphill in northbound direction. A northbound hike also facilitates arranging a motorized transport from Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez to Levican what eliminates 26 km road walking.

2.5.41.9 Benefits of Hiking and Packrafting

The Regular Route of GPT33H was developed for hiking and **a packraft is neither needed nor recommended** even if a packraft may be deployed in northbound and southbound direction.

Most packrafters that travel southbound will probably opt for section GPT33P to float on the lower Rio Ibañez from Villa Cerro Castillo to Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez. This packrafting route has a water proportion of 80%. In comparison, on GPT33H the water proportion is in best case 20%. But this water proportion can only be archived on an exceptionally calm day when wind permits packrafting all the way from Puerto Avellano to Levicán along the shore of Lago General Carrera. On most summer days strong wind and resulting high waves will impede packrafting.

But for packrafters that travel northbound GPT33H provides an interesting option. These packrafters might attempt to cross Lago General Carrera from Fachinal to Puerto Avellano either with a motorboat or by packraft, then hike the very attractive centerpiece of GPT33H past the Torres de Avellano and conclude this section by packrafting the final 21 km (Rio Sin Nombre, Laguna Verde and the upper Rio Ibañez) to finish in Villa Cerro Castillo. For more information to this option see the section description of GPT34P on page 801 and the comment to the section combination GPT33H with GPT32 Option 6 on page 781.

2.5.41.10 Suitable Section Combinations

GPT33H connects with the adjacent sections GT32 and GT34H at suitable resupply locations (Villa Cerro Castillo and Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez). This makes a section combination without resupplying irrelevant.

2.5.41.10.1 Combining GPT35 with GPT33H

Northbound hikers should consider connecting GPT35 directly with GPT33H by exiting Parque Patagonia towards Fachinal (GPT35 Option X) and crossing Lago General Carrera by motorboat from Fachinal to the Desembocadura Rio Avellano (GPT35 Option X). Here Lago General Carrera is only 3.5 km wide and a motorboat crossing does not take more than 20 minutes. Unfortunately, in summer this requires some patience as the normally strong wind often impedes this. In the morning or the evening the

wind occasionally calms down but rarely during the day.

Carlos Amoroz, a settler in Fachinal owns a motorboat and offers this service on request. Pascual Diaz, a tour operator from Mallin Grande, can also provide this service but he must first haul his motorboat the 42 km on trailer from Mallin Grande to Fachinal what makes his service substantially more expensive.

Settler with motorboat in Fachinal (Location: -46.5568°S / -72.2120°W)
Name: Carlos Amoroz
Mobile: +56-9-76267029
Price: Approx. 30’000 CLP for 2 persons

Tour operator with motorboat in Mallin Grande
Name: Pascual Diaz (Company: “Kalem Patagonia”)
Mobile: +56-9-7391 7881
Price: Presumably more expensive and advance notice required

This section combination of GPT35 with GPT33H seems more practical in northbound direction as hikers can first talk directly to the settler with the motorboat in Fachinal, resupply in Chile Chico (by taking a motorized transport from Fachinal to Chile Chico and back) and then cross Lago General Carrera with a refilled backpack. While waiting for the wind to calm down hikers can pitch their tent at a nice wind protected camp site on the shore of Lago General Carrera.

Thanks to the reasonably good mobile phone coverage in Fachinal hikers can check the weather and wind forecast and call the settler with the motorboat when approaching Fachinal. This permits hikers to anticipate or discard a motorboat crossing on arrival.

Hikers that attempt a more complicated southbound crossing of Lago General Carrera should make arrangements with the settler with the motorboat at least one or two weeks before arriving at Puerto Avellano, test communication devices (i.e. InReach to mobile phone), agree on the precise pick-up location (Puerto Avellano or Desembocadura Rio Avellano) and carry enough food to wait some time in Puerto Avellano. Hikers should be prepared that the wind may not calm down while waiting several days in Puerto Avellano. In this case the motorboat transfer should canceled, and the hiker should walk out to Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez before the food reserves deplete.

2.5.41.10.2 Combining GPT33H with GPT32

If hiking GPT33H with a packraft northbound than the packraft can be inflated at the bridge over Rio Sin Nombre to paddle 2 km downstream on this river, cross the 1 km wide Laguna Verde on its western shore and continue to the upper Rio Ibañez to float down 18 km on the upper Rio Ibañez towards Villa Cerro Castillo. From the last recommended exit on the upper Rio Ibañez it is only a 3 km walk into Villa Cerro Castillo. This route combines GPT33H Option 3 with GPT33H Option 8 and GPT32 Option 6.

2.5.41.11 Resupply

Section GPT33H starts in **Villa Cerro Castillo** and terminates in **Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez** (Resupply information see GPT34H). Hikers that continue southbound may also resupply in **Chile Chico** after the ferry crossing of Lago General Carrera (Resupply information see GPT35). All three towns are rather small but provide a rising number of tourists with all required essentials. Several shops sell food and camping gas canisters. Restaurants offer filling meals. And accommodation is provided by hostels,

cabañas and camp sites in these towns.

2.5.41.11.1 Resupply in Villa Cerro Castillo

To be issued.

2.5.41.11.2 Resupply on the Route

There is no plannable resupply along the entire Regular Route but some food may be obtained at the two homestead farms on the route.

[⌖**Settler (Maria & Julio)** @33H-76.9]: Maria and Julio are one of the few settlers that still make cheese for sale in such a remote location. If you are short on foot you might also ask if they may sell some bread, milk or meat.

[⌖**Settler (Luis Diaz)** @33H-85.2]: Luis is a welcoming person that enjoys the company of an unexpected visitor. When passing his home consider a visit. You may also ask if he has bread or meat to sell.

[⌖**Puesto** @33H-98.5]: The *puesto* 250 m north of Puerto Avellano is rarely occupied by their owners but the fruit trees might provide some well desired vitamins in summer and early autumn.

Puestos on the coast of Lago General Carrera: All *puestos* along the coast of Lago General Carrera are abandoned and partly deteriorated. Some fruit trees might still be alive and provide fresh fruits at times.

2.5.41.12 Access to Route and Return

Hikers that walk GPT33H and its adjacent sections with continuous footsteps can resupply in Cerro Castillo, Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez and Chile Chico and do not need to leave the route to resupply.

Villa Cerro Castillo is served by several bus companies that travel daily the Carretera Austral between Coyhaique and Cochrane and stop on the way in Cerro Castillo. Most buses to Villa Cerro Castillo leave Coyhaique in the morning around 09:00 and pass Villa Cerro Castillo approximately 1:30 hours later. In the opposite direction buses pass Cerro Castillo in the early afternoon. Hitchhiking on the Carretera Austral is possible but a patience test as the number of hitchhikers often exceeds the number of "available seats". For details see Resupply in Villa Cerro Castillo on page 782 above.

Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez has regular public transportation to Coyhaique (1:45 hour by bus) and Chile Chico (2:15 hour by ferry). The ferry over Lago General Carrera that connects Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez with Chile Chico does two round trips each day, one in the morning and one the evening. Buses to and from Coyhaique operate synchronized to these ferries. For details see Resupply in Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez on page XY for more information (Section GPT34H).

If you wish to minimize the initial and final road walking consider starting (or finishing) on the Carretera Austral near Laguna Verde and finishing (or starting) near Levicán.

Laguna Verde [⌖Div @33H-03B]: You can shorten the initial road walking out of Villa Cerro Castillo by 18 km if starting from the Carretera Austral at the diversion to Laguna Verde and Lago Lapparent. To get to this junction take either one of the buses that travel the Carretera Austral, try to hitchhike or ask for a *translado* (private transfer).

Levicán [⌖Div Levican @33H-131.4]: Monday and Friday a subsidised bus does two round trips from Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez to the settlement Levicán; one round trip in the morning and a second round trip in the evening. Taking this bus eliminates 26 km of road walking. Alternatively, you may ask for a *translado* in Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez [⌖Private Transport @33H-157.0].

Subsidized bus from Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez to Levicán: Monday and Friday, Approx. 1'000 CLP
Morning round trip: Leaving Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez at 08:00, arriving in Levican around 09:00 and returning to Ibañez at 10:00.
Evening round trip: Leaving Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez at 18:00, arriving in Levican around 19:00 and returning to Ibañez at 20:00.

Private transport from Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez to Levicán: Anytime, Approx. 35´000 CLP

Another option to shorten this section is starting or finishing in **Puerto Avellano**. To do this either arrange a transfer by motor boat from Fachinal (see 2.5.41.10.1 Combining GPT35 with GPT33H on page 779) or if you are lucky you may take the subsidized ferry from Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez. This ferry runs once per month from Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez to Puerto Sanchez and returns two days later. The ferry stops at various settlements on the shore of Lago General Carrera, i.e. at Puerto Avellano and Puerto Cristales. Dates and times might be obtained at the from Naviera Austral offices in Coyhaique and Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez.

2.5.41.13 Escape Options

At Kilometer 5.9 and 24.3 counted from Villa Cerro Castillo hikers may aboard a traverse by walking north to the Carretera Austral by either taking GPT33H Option 3A or GPT33H Option 3B. After these points there is no escape route that provides a short cut out of this mountain range. All optional routes are more demanding and not verified and should not be taken if distressed (even if the route to Bahia Murta appears shorter). In case of an emergency settlers might provide help with horses and the *Carabineros* might

arrange an evacuation from Puerto Avellano or other locations on the shore of Lago General Carrera by motorboat.

2.5.41.14 Regular Hiking Route

Kilometer 0.0 to 24.3: Villa Cerro Castillo to western end of Lago Lapparent at diversion [⌖Div @33H-24.3]

Leave Villa Cerro Castillo on the Carretera Austral and follow this paved road for 1.2 km. Don’t miss the exit shortly after the bridge over Rio Ibañez and continue on gravel roads to the eastern terminus of Lago Laparent. There are several nice spots to pitch a tent partly on the shore of lakes. The water supply along this route is not verified yet, therefore carry enough water to get at least to the lakes along this route.

Kilometer 24.3 to 45.7: Gravel road to Avellano trail head at diversion [⌖Div @33H-45.7]

Continue on the gravel road for 21 km. You can refill your water bottles on the numerous small side streams that run down the mountains. Alternatively ask the settlers along the road for water. There are plenty of attractive camp sites along the minor road. The Avellano trail head can easily be overlooked when walking the minor road. Therefore, pay attention to the GPS when approaching the diversion at Kilometer 45.7.

Kilometer 45.7 to 54.6: Horse trail along upper Rio Avellano to diversion [⌖Div @33H-54.6]

The frequently used horse trail is well maintained and generally easy to follow. Only on the open pastures the trail dissipates and forms again where the route enters a forest. Water is frequently available but should be filtered if taken from the larger streams that cross the pastures. The pastures along the route provide scenic camp sites.

Kilometer 54.6 to 57.1: Ascent in forest on track [RR-TL-V@33H-54.6+2.5]

This trail section is rarely used, poorly maintained and partly not well visible. Fallen trees block the trail in numerous locations and several diversions around these obstracles complicate navigation. Hikers should consult frequently their GPS to not lose the trail in the forest. This more demanding trail ends where the route leaves the forest and enters the open valley.

Kilometer 57.1 to 62.2: Upper valley to Torres de Avellano outlook to [Pass 1310m @33H-62.2]

The wide open upper valley provides good grazing land for cattle and is used in the summer months for this purpose. Therefore, numerous animal tracks can be spotted in this area. In this area the GPS track often indicate an approximate route only and hikers should seek their way more freely. Only where the route enters a patch of trees the route should be followed closely. Towards the end of the valley the route becomes steeper and fields of rocks require careful walking. Water from the river should be filtered or boiled before consumption. There are plenty of attractive camp sites. The last reasonable well protected spot to pitch a tent is [Camp @33H-61.2]. The next protected camp site is approx. 3 to 4 hours walking hours after the pass down in the upper valley of Rio Ventisquiero after Kilometer 64.4.

Kilometer 62.2 to 64.0: Boulder descent on track [RR-CC-A@33H-62.1+1.9]

After the pass the route descents cross country through fields of boulders into the valley of Rio Ventisquiero. The GPS track guides around cliffs and should be followed relatively closely. Some water trickles down from the mountains above. The camp [Camp @33H-63.5] provides a perfect view of the Torres de Avellano but is very wind exposed and gets flooded in heavy rain.

Therefore, pitch your tent only in this location if weather conditions are perfect and after checking the weather and wind forecast for the night and the next morning. If camping here, you will hear during the night the rumbling sound of falling glacier ice. Water can be collected in the glacier lake. There is no more drinking water from the glacier lake to Rio Ventisquiero at Kilometer 64.4.

Kilometer 64.0 to 64.4: Forest bush bashing on track [RR-BB-A@33H-64.0+0.4]

When reaching the end of boulder field enter the forest and seek your way 400 m through the forest to the Rio Ventisquiero. The bush bashing though the forest is slow and demanding.

Kilometer 64.4 to 68.6: Upper valley of Rio Ventisquiero on track [RR-CC&BB-A@33H-64.4+4.2]

The upper valley of Rio Venitsquiero got filled with sediments from the surrounding mountains. Therefore, the base of this upper valley is now 100 m to 200 m wide, flat and only lightly sloped. The valley bottom is covered by bare river sediments, swamps and some pastures that get occasionally used as grazing ground for cattle. Therefore, several vague animal tracks are visible but there is no continuous main trail. In this upper valley livestock rooms freely on the riverbanks, in the river itself, though the swamps and over the pastures but also in the rather open forest on either side of the river. In the same manner hikers should freely seek their way until reaching the trail head [Trail @33H-68.6]. Water is readily available but may need to be filtered or boiled. There are also several spots for a tent in this upper valley.

Kilometer 68.6 to 69.9: Descent in forest on track [RR-TL-V@33H-68.6+1.4]

At the end of the upper valley the Rio Ventisquiero enters a tight gorge and cascades down into the valley of Rio Avellano. Just

before this gorge a trail starts, leads away from the river and descents through the forest to Rio Avellano. This trail is steep in parts and occasionally obstructed by fallen trees. About 300 m after leaving the river a tent can pitched in an old corral but water must be brought from the river [⌖Camp NO Water @33H-68.9].

Kilometer 69.9 to 85.7: Horse trail along lower Rio Avellano to [⌖Ford (Rio Avellano) @33H-85.7]

The horse trail along Rio Avellano is frequently used and well maintained. Several pastures provide nice camp sites and water is readily available but may need to be filtered or boiled. Rio Avellano must be crossed at least once at [⌖Ford (Rio Avellano) @33H-81.4]. When passing the two homestead farms [⌖Settler (Maria & Julio) @33H-76.9] and [⌖Settler (Luis Diaz) @33H-85.2] be a kind guest and salute the owners of the land that you are crossing. If you visit Luis Diaz you will need to cross Rio Avellano two more times. In case Rio Avellano can not be forded on foot you may these settlers for help to cross the river on horseback.

Kilometer 85.7 to 98.7: Minor road along Rio Avellano to Puerto Avelleno to diversion [⌖Div @33H-98.7]

Years ago, a mining company researched the lower valley of Rio Avellano for precious metals and build a minor road to facilitate this investigation. Luckily, the research did not result in the opening of mine, but the minor road remains in use. The road terminates at Puerto Avellano on the shore of Lago General Carrera. Water and camp sites can be found regularly on this route.

Kilometer 98.7 to 118.6: Horse trail along Lago General Carrera on track [RR-TL-V@33H-98.7+19.9]

The settlers in the valley of Rio Avellano get to their outposts either by ferry or on horseback. This horse trail next to Lago General Carrera is also occasionally used to move animals between the valley of Rio Avellano and Levicán. Walking this horse trail means

quite some pointless ups and downs (“PUDs”) due to the very steep and rocky terrain. Occasionally streams cross the path and provide drinking water to refill bottles every hour or two. This steep terrain and the dense semi-desert vegetation makes it difficult to find a suitable camp site. The two best spots to pitch a tent are documented [⌖Camp @33H-114.5] and [⌖Camp @33H-116.9].

Kilometer 118.6 to 131.4: Minor road from Lago General Carrera to Levicán to diversion [⌖Div Levican @33H-131.4]

In 2019 the minor road from Levicán was extended by 2 or 3 km and reaches now the shore of Lago General Carrera. With this extension some horse trail might become disused and overgrown in the coming years. Therefore, hikers should follow this new minor road from the shore of Lago General Carrera. This new route is not yet recorded in detail by GPS and therefore currently an investigation route. Before ascending this road refill your water bottles and bags as Lago General Carrera as this is the last reliable water supply for the next 22 km. Pastures around the settlers home provide nice camp sites but if these settlers are not at homes hikers might struggle to get water. The next reliable water supply is in the vicinity of [⌖Bridge @33H-130.4].

Kilometer 131.4 to 157.5: Road from Levicán to section end in Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez

A wide and well maintained gravel road connects Levicán with Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez. Subsidized buses provide public transportation on the morning and the evening on Monday and Friday only. Chances to get a lift when hitchhiking are reasonably good. Water bottles can be refilled where the road gets in close vicinity of Rio Ibañez or at settlers homes. The occasional pastures along the road provide suitable camp sites.

For additional information see the Wikiexplora Articles:

Levicán to Puerto Avellano: http://www.wikiexplora.com/Pen%C3%ADnsula_de_Levican_-_El_Avellano
Torres de Avellano: http://www.wikiexplora.com/Torres_del_Avellano
Laguna la Plaza: http://www.wikiexplora.com/Laguna_La_Plaza

2.5.41.15 Regular Packrafting Route

Kilometer 0.0 to 98.7: Same as Regular Hiking Route.

Packrafting Kilometer 98.7 to 131.4: Packrafting the coast of Lago General Carrera from Puerto Avellano to Levicán

Due to the normally strong wind and the resulting high waves packrafting Lago General Carrera is challenging and not inherently safe even if paddling close to the shore and in the predominant wind direction (from Puerto Avellano towards Levicán). This lake is infamous for suddenly starting wind, therefore don't rely only on your observations but check the wind forecast before inflating the packraft. Only if a sufficiently long window of calm weather is predicted consider packrafting. The steep and rocky coast often inhibits exiting the lake and connecting to the trail. The 8.5 km long segment between [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-104.6] and [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-114.7] is without a suitable connection to the trail.

First 6.6 km till from [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-98.9] to [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-104.6]: Continuously easy lake exit and good trail access
Next 4.3 km till [⌖Emergency Lake Out @33H-109.8]: No safe lake exit and no access to trail
At [⌖Emergency Lake Out @33H-109.8]: Small beach for emergency lake exit but very difficult access to trail
Next 4.2 km till [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-114.7]: No safe lake exit and no access to trail
At [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-114.7]: Easy lake exit and good access to trail

Next 2.0 km till [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-116.7]: No safe lake exit and no access to trail
Next 1.7 km till [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-116.7]: Continuously easy lake exit and good access to trail
Next 10 km till [⌖Lake In/Out @33H-127.7]: At least every 2 km beaches to exit lake but very difficult access to trail

Packrafting from Levicán to Puerto Avellano in south-western direction is not recommended due to the opposite predominant wind direction.

Kilometer 131.4 to 143.8: Walking from Levicán to Rio Ibañez at [⌖River In @33H-143.8]

Packrafting from Levican to Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez in northern direction is not recommended due to the opposite predominant wind direction. Therefore packrafter should walk the hiking route from Levicãn to Rio Ibañez at [⌖River In @33H-143.8]. Only when travelling from Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez to Levian packrafting might be considered on an exceptionally calm morning or evening.

Packrafting Kilometer 143.8 to 147.0: Packraft crossing of Rio Ibañez and walk to Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez

With a packraft it is normally not necessary to roadwalk 12.6 km via [⌖Bridge @33H-148.7] and [⌖Bridge @33H-149.5] to Puerto Ingeniero Ibañaez but Rio Ibañez can be crossed by packraft. Therefore, packrafters should consider inflating the packraft at [⌖River In @33H-143.8] and take the 3.1 km short cut into town.

2.5.41.16 Optional Routes

2.5.41.16.1 GPT33H Option 1 Valle Ibañez

Outside of the recommended travel period or in poor weather hikers should consider taking the substantially shorter and less exposed Option 1.

This route is one of the remaining fragments of the Sendero de Chile trail project. Should you see "*Prohibido entrar*" signs ("Do not enter") on a gate then don´t get discouraged to continue. These signs refer most likely to cars and not to hikers. The northern third of this optional route is mostly on trails while the remaining part follows minor roads. Hikers that walked this route described it as easy walking and scenic. Hitchhiking is possible and promising.

2.5.41.16.2 GPT33H Option 2 Torres de Avellano Bypass

The regular route via [⌖Pass 1310m @33H-62.2] is very exposed. In bad weather hikers should consider taking Option 2 which is a well maintained trail in the less exposed valley of Río Avellano.

The Torres de Avellano Bypass requires about one dozen river crossings. By taking this bypass hikers miss the highlight of this section but in poor weather the Torres de Avellano are anyway covered in clouds and not visible.

2.5.41.16.3 GPT33H Option 3 Carretera Austral

This optional route represents the Carretera Austral between Villa Cerro Castillo and Puerto Tranquilo. Walking the Carrera Austral is not suggest but hikers that opt to walk Option 4,5 and/or 6 should take a bus that travels the Carretera Austral. This optional route is also the closest land route next to the packrafting option on the upper Rio Ibañez (GPT32 Option 6), Rio Murta

(GPT33H Option 10) and Lago General Carrera (GPT33H Option 11).

2.5.41.16.4 GPT33H Option 4 Puerto Cristal

This fully verified route is a combination of minor roads, trails and cross country routes in the vicinity of Lago General Carrera that connects Bahia Murta via Puerto Sanchez and Puerto Cristales with Puerto Avellano. It is of interest for hikers that partly travel the Carretera Austral by bus and wish to explore the Valle Miller and the Valle Jaramillo to explore the little known western side of the Torres de Avellano.

For more information see the Wikiexplora Article:
Puerto Cristal: http://www.wikiexplora.com/Puerto_Cristal

2.5.41.16.5 GPT33H Option 5 Valle Miller

The Valle Miller to the west of the Torres de Avellano is a death-end valley without a suitable hiking connection to the adjacent valleys. Therefore, this option is of interest for hikers that wish to explore the scenic Cordillera de Avellano without an ambitious long-distance goal.

For more information see the Wikiexplora Articles:
Valle Miller: http://www.wikiexplora.com/Valle_Miller
Estero Jaramillo: http://www.wikiexplora.com/Estero_Jaramillo

2.5.41.16.6 GPT33H Option 6 Altiplano Este

This option is of interest for hikers that wish to explore an undocumented route that climbs up high up into treeless rocky terrain. The steep and long ascent will most likely require some demanding route finding and clambering what will not appeal to all hikers.

The settlers in Valle Avellano and the residents of Levicán described this route that traverses the *altiplano* and connects these two homesteads. This cross country routes climbs steep up from Río Avellano, reaches an altitude of 2170 m and then descends gradually towards Levicán. This route through barren terrain grants impressive views over Lago General Carrera and the surrounding mountains. But the elevated and exposed terrain makes this a “good weather only route”. Locals warned that strong wind, low clouds and snowstorms can transform this area into a disorienting and hostile place even in mid summer. There seems no drinking water on the *altiplano* (apart from remaining snow) and the satellite images do not indicate suitable wind protected camp sites in the elevated area. This route is not yet investigated by hikers and recorded by GPS.

2.5.41.16.7 GPT33H Option 7 Ruta Alto Norte

Hikers that are appealed by clambering through elevated exposed terrain might enjoy this shorter but not necessarily faster investigation route.

The settlers in Valle Avellano confirmed that this route has been used occasionally but no GPS record or detailed description is available. The character of this route is similar to the above described Option 6 but Option 7 might require in addition some bush-bashing.

A part of this route is described in the Wikiexplora Article:

Mirador Este de las Torres de Avellano: http://www.wikiexplora.com/Mirador_Este_de_las_Torres_de_Avellano

2.5.41.16.8 GPT33H Option 8 Valle Resbalín

This option is of interest for hikers that partly bus the Carretera Austral and wish to investigate routes. The Valley of Rio Resbalín connects Bahia Murta with the valley of Rio Avellano. This only partly verified optional route is approximately 20 km long and the shortest access to the Torres de Avellano from the Carretera Austral.

Till around 2010 the settlers of Bahia Murta used this trail to drive animals to the summer pastures in the Cordillera Avellano. But a landslide halfway on this route made this traverse unsuitable for animals. Now the center part of this route is unmaintained and difficult to follow. This makes it preferable to investigate this route from Bahia Murta and not from Rio Avellano. Therefore, hikers that wish to explore this option should take a bus that travels the Carretera Austral (See GPT33H Option 3) and leave the bus at the Bahia Murta junction. Hikers should carry a machete and be prepared that it may take up to two days to reach the Regular Route at [⌖Puesto @33H-53.0]. If the now unmaintained trail turns out impassable than hikers can backtrack to Bahia Murta, resupply in this village and:

- walk along the Lago General Carrera via Puerto Sanchez and Puerto Cristal to Puerto Avellano (see GPT33H Option 4) or
- walk into Valle Miller and Valle Jaramillo on the western side of the Torres de Avellano (see GPT33H Option 5).

2.5.41.16.9 GPT33H Option 9 Laguna Verde

Packrafters that hike the section GPT33H northbound i.e. after crossing Lago General Carrera from Fachinal to Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez best terminate this section via Option 9 to use the packraft on the final 21 km to Villa Cerro Castillo. For more information

see chapter 2.5.41.10.2 Combining GPT33H with GPT32 on page 781.

2.5.41.16.10 GPT33H Option 10 Río Murta

This option is attractive for packrafters that use public transportation to cherry-pick easily accessible water routes or that plan to hike Option 4, 5, 8 or that want to packraft along the shore of Lago General Carrera (GPT33H Option 11).

Rio Murta is a beautiful turquoise river that meanders through a wide valley and is surrounded by snow-covered peaks. The 44 km long river section from the recommended put-in till the outlet into Lago General Carrera is free of rapids and can be packrafted southbound only. The river descends gradually 70 m (elevation difference) over these 44 km what results in a moderate to fast river speed. The water volume changes substantially between seasons and depending on rain. Especially in late summer and autumn this river can be rather shallow even for a packraft resulting in ground contacts. A bigger hazard for packrafters are the dead trees in the bends where the current often accelerates. Many wide gravel banks facilitate entering and exiting the river. The nearby Carretera Austral can be easily reached in various locations.

2.5.41.16.11 GPT33H Option 11 Lago General Carrera Oeste

Packrafters that look for a special challenge may consider paddling along the shore of Lago General Carrera. But only patient packrafters without a tight schedule may attempt this route should as the normally strong wind makes packrafting most of the time unsafe. During spring or autumn chances are better to have some days with less wind than during summer.

The proposed route follows the shoreline close to lake exits and in parallel to land routes to continue walking if wind impedes packrafting. Due to the predominant wind direction this route can only be paddled in westbound direction. The crossing from

Puerto Tranquilo to Puerto Sanchez requires particular caution and should only be attempted on a very calm morning or evening [OP-LK-2@33H-11-#002]. It is not advisable to packraft between [Lake In/Out @33H-11-#006] and [Lake In/Out @33H-11-#007] as the steep and particular wind exposed coast impedes exiting the lake in this 12 km long area. The advises to the Regular Packrafting Route are equally applicable.

2.5.41.17 Investigations and Explorations

To be issued.

2.5.41.18 Links to other Resources

To be issued.

2.5.41.19 Route Development and Contributors

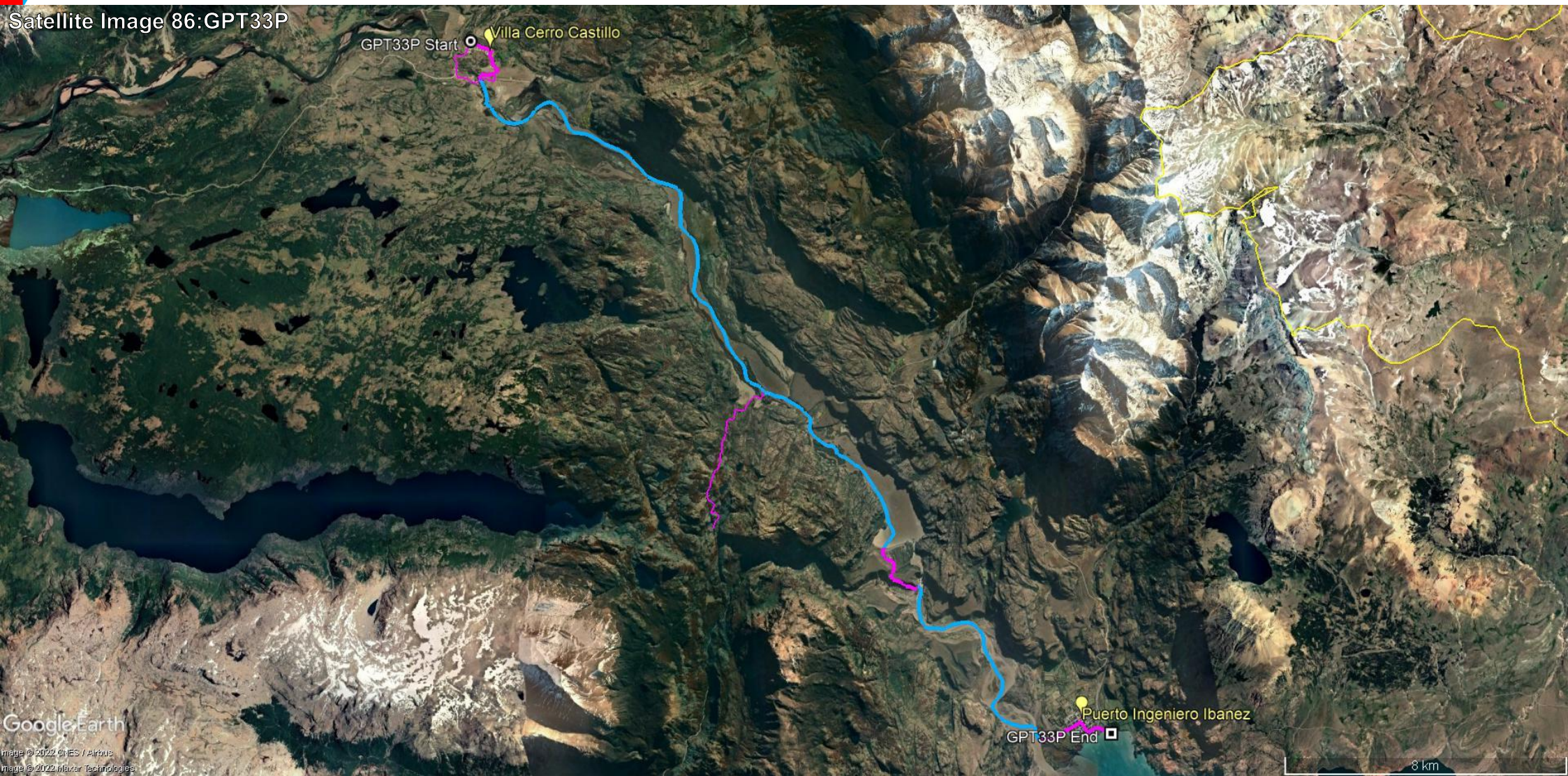
Until 2019 the Regular Route followed the Sendero de Chile in the vicinity of Rio Ibañez what is now Option 1. Tobias Hellwig suggested to reroute the GPT via the Torres de Avellano to incorporate this hidden treasure. This proposed new route was investigated and documented in February 2020 by the founders of the GPT. By this time multiple segments of this new route were already published on Wikiexplora by other authors. Only the route from Kilometer 62.2 to 69.9 remained undocumented and had to be researched and ground-proved.

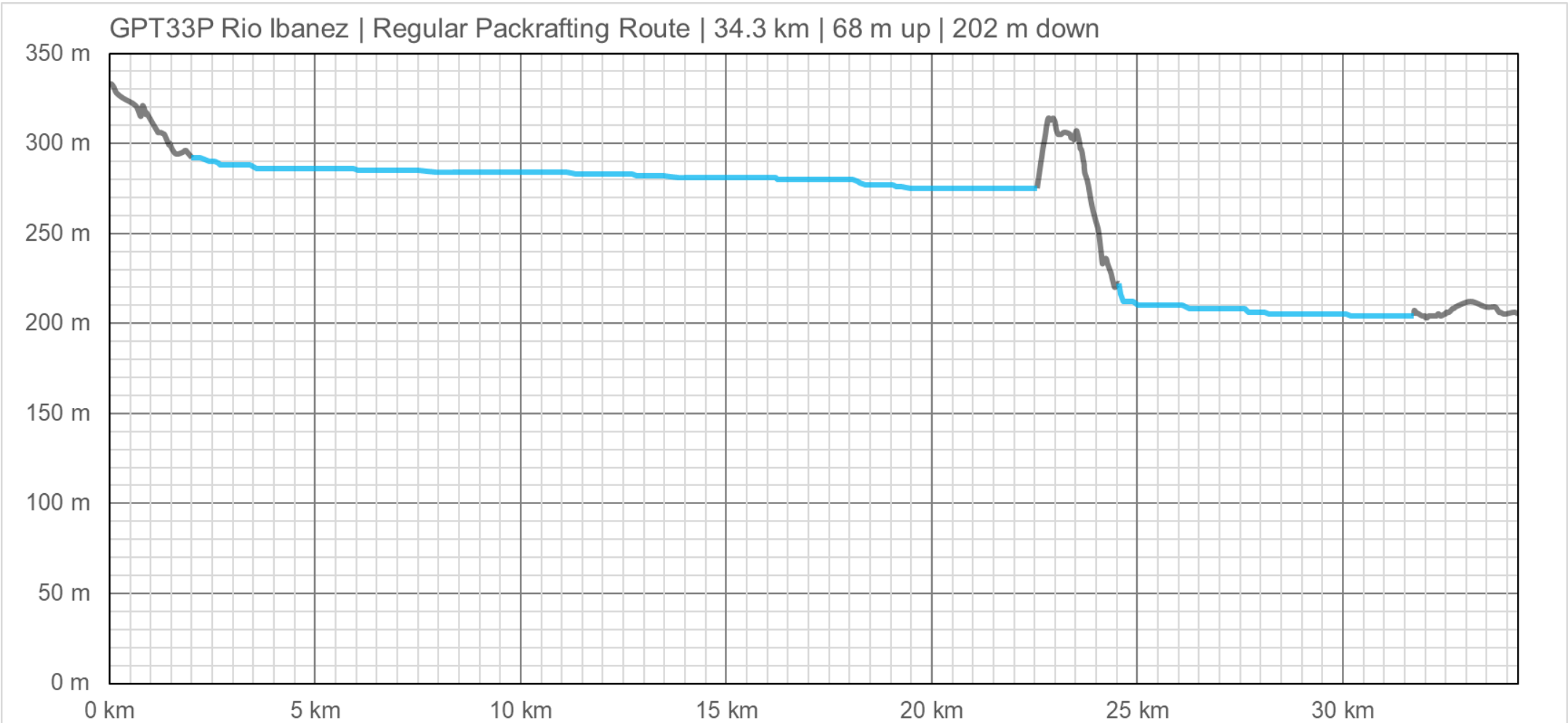
2.5.42 GPT33P: Río Ibañez

GPT33P: Rio Ibanez				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**-**	**-**	**34.3 km**	**7 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Villa Cerro Castillo		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	2.2 km	6.6%
Finish	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	2.4 km	7.1%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	1.9 km	5.4%
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT32, GPT33H, GPT34H		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	8 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**27.7 km**	**81.0%**
Attraction	-	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		27.7 km	81.0%
Difficulty	-	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Only ↓		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 104: GPT33P Section Summary

Satellite Image 86:GPT33P





Elevation Profile 67: GPT33P Regular Packrafting Route

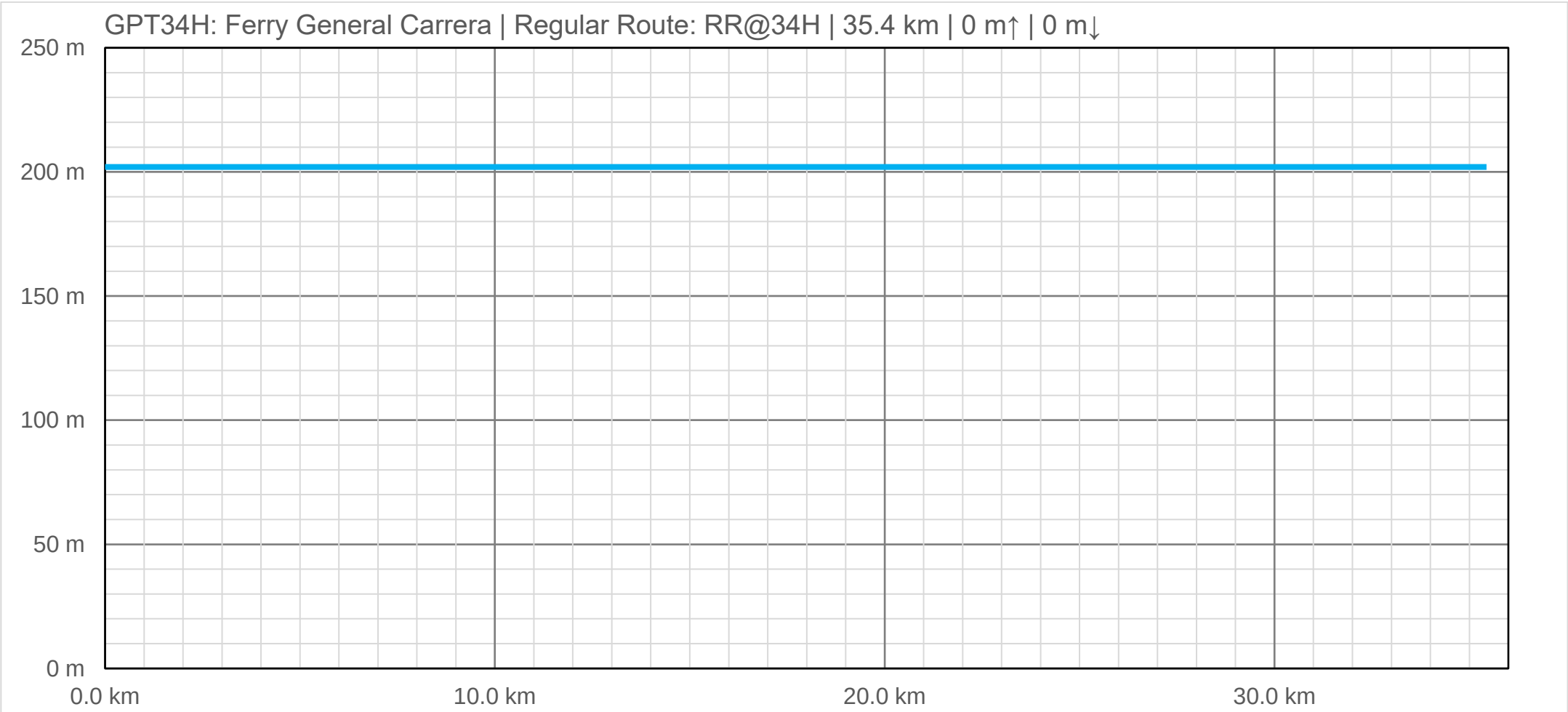
2.5.43 GPT34H: Lago General Carrera

GPT34H: Ferry Chile Chico				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Chile Chico (Puerto)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Ferry Only		Ferry (FY)	(35.4 km)	(100.0%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT33H, GPT33P, GPT35		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	-	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	-						
Challenges	-						

Table 105: GPT34H Section Summary

Satellite Image 87:GPT34H



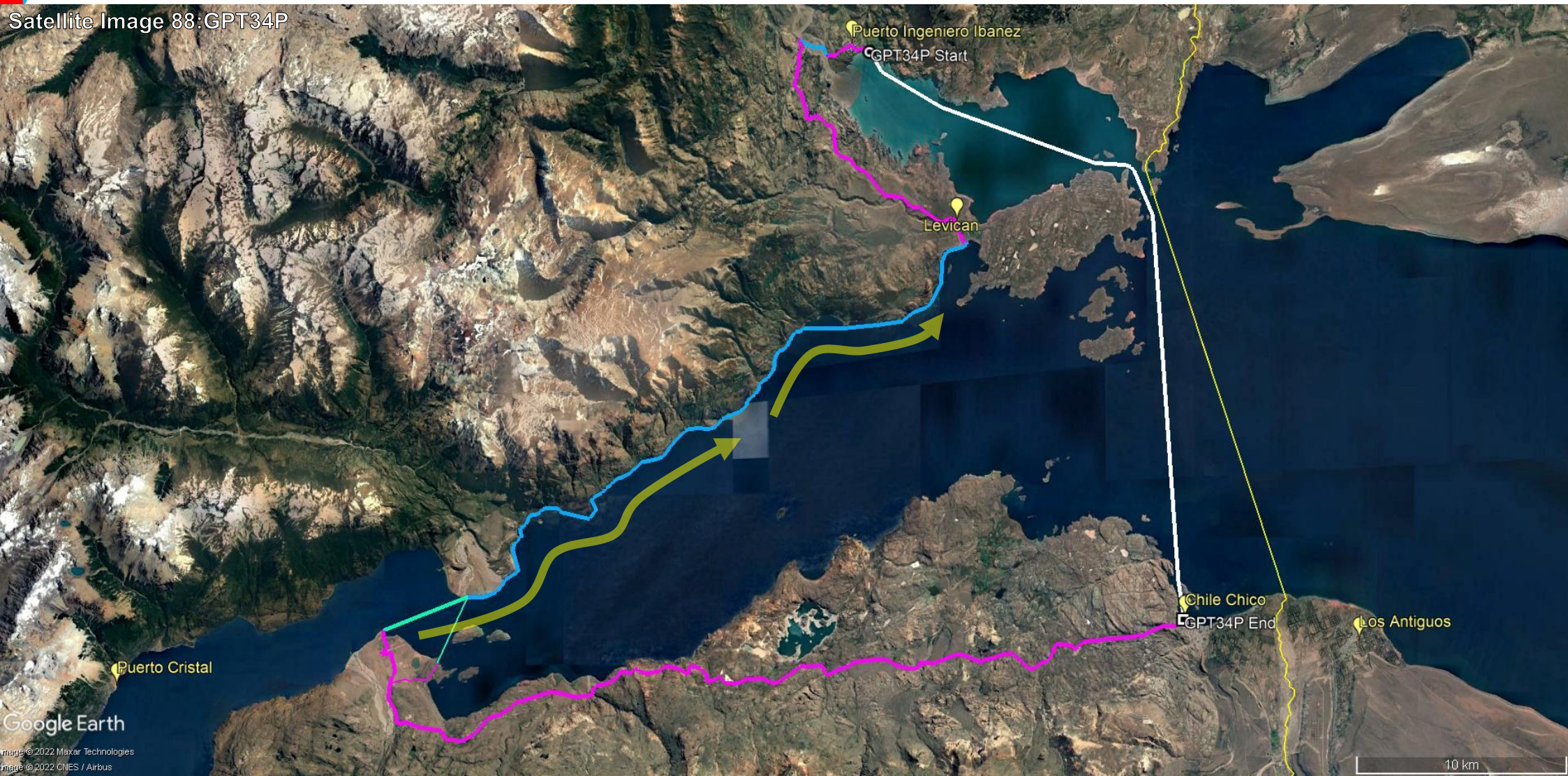


Elevation Profile 68: GPT34 Regular Route

2.5.44 GPT34P: Lago General Carrera

GPT34P: Lago General Carrera				Hiking	Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**-**	**-**	**107.0 km**	**29 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	21.4 km	20.0%
Finish	Chile Chico (Puerto)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	44.8 km	41.9%
Status	n/a		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.9 km	0.8%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	(70.9 km)	(39.9%)
Connects to	GPT33H, GPT35		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	6 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(4.3 km)	(4.0%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**39.9 km**	**37.3%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		1.7 km	1.6%
Difficulty	-	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		38.2 km	35.7%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↑ Preferable due to predominant wind direction / Demanding lake crossing with difficult to predict wind						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable						

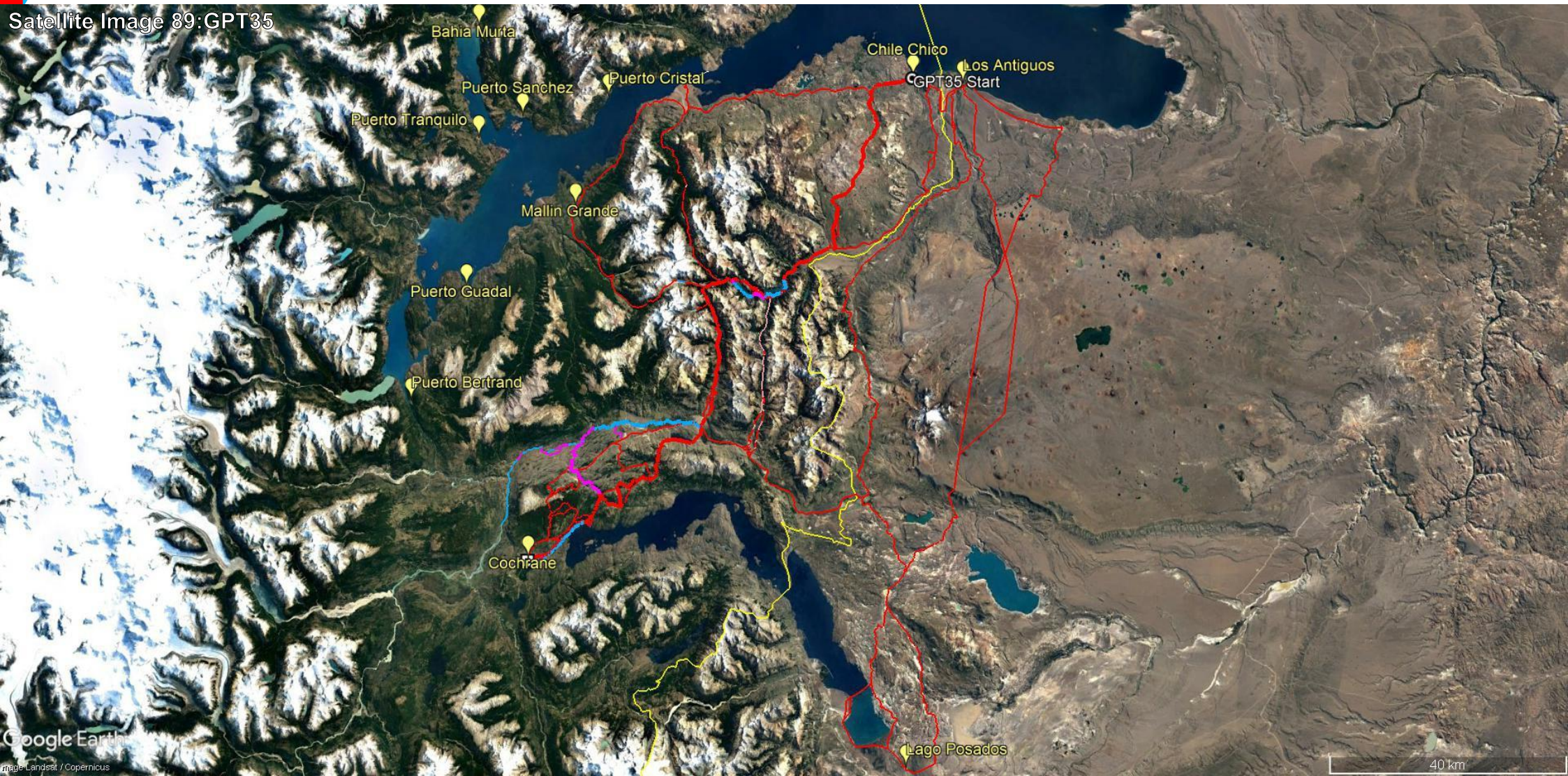
Table 106: GPT34P Section Summary

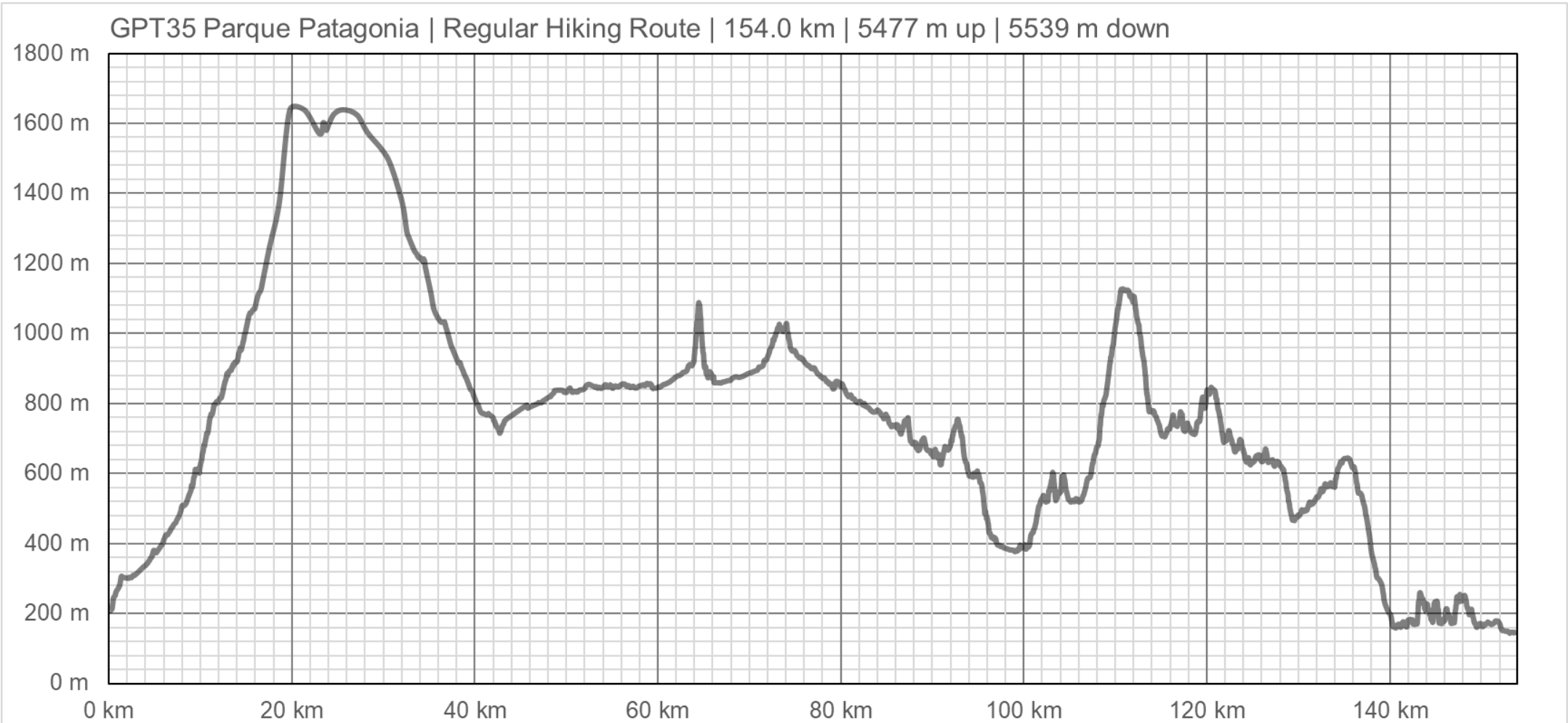

Satellite Image 88:GPT34P
Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez
GPT34P Start
Levican
Chile Chico
GPT34P End
Los Antiguos
Puerto Cristal
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
10 km

2.5.45 GPT35: Parque Patagonia

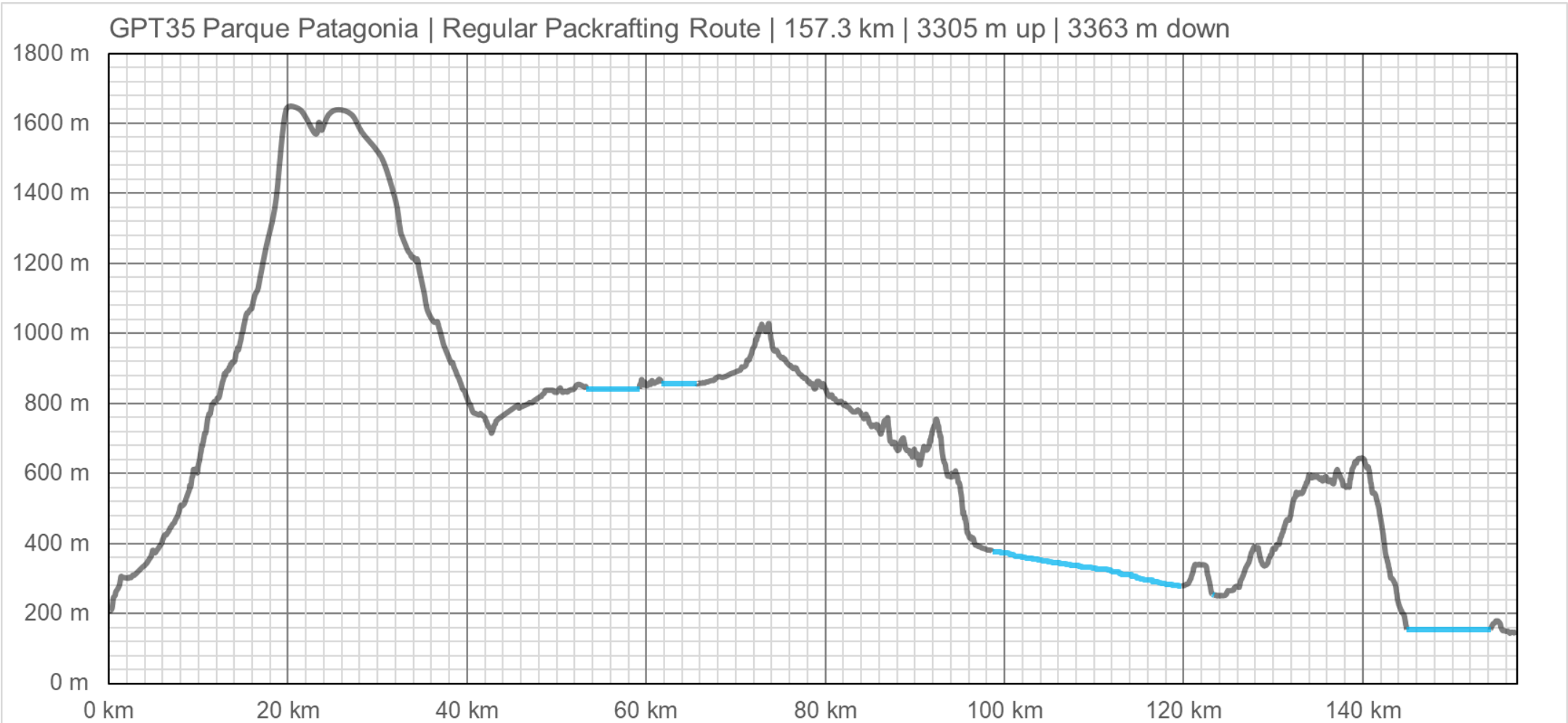
GPT35: Parque Patagonia				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**153.8 km**	**48 h**	**157.3 km**	**44 h**
Region	Chile & (Argentina): Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	66.2 km	43.0%	32.2 km	20.5%
Start	Chile Chico (Puerto)		Minor Roads (MR)	44.3 km	28.8%	44.6 km	28.4%
Finish	Cochrane		Primary Roads (PR)	11.2 km	7.3%	12.3 km	7.8%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	32.3 km	21.0%	27.6 km	17.5%
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT34H, GPT34P, GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT81P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	883 km (10 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**40.6 km**	**25.8%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		22.2 km	14.1%
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		18.4 km	11.7%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance						

Table 107: GPT35 Section Summary


Satellite Image 89:GPT35
Bahia Murta
Puerto Sanchez
Puerto Cristal
Puerto Tranquilo
Chile Chico
Los Antiguos
GPT35 Start
Mallin Grande
Puerto Guadal
Puerto Bertrand
Cochrane
Lago Posados
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
40 km



Elevation Profile 69: GPT35 Regular Hiking Route

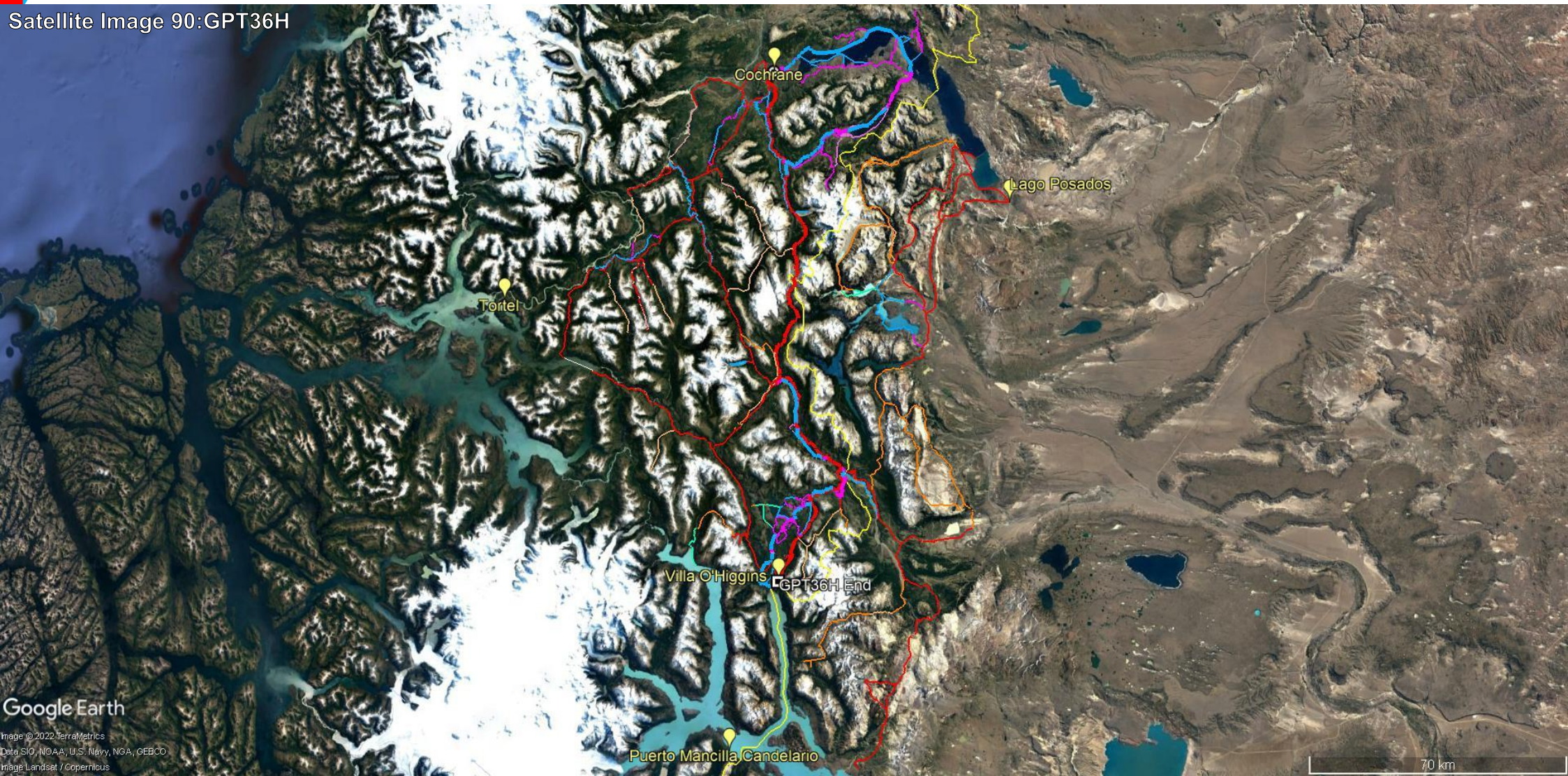


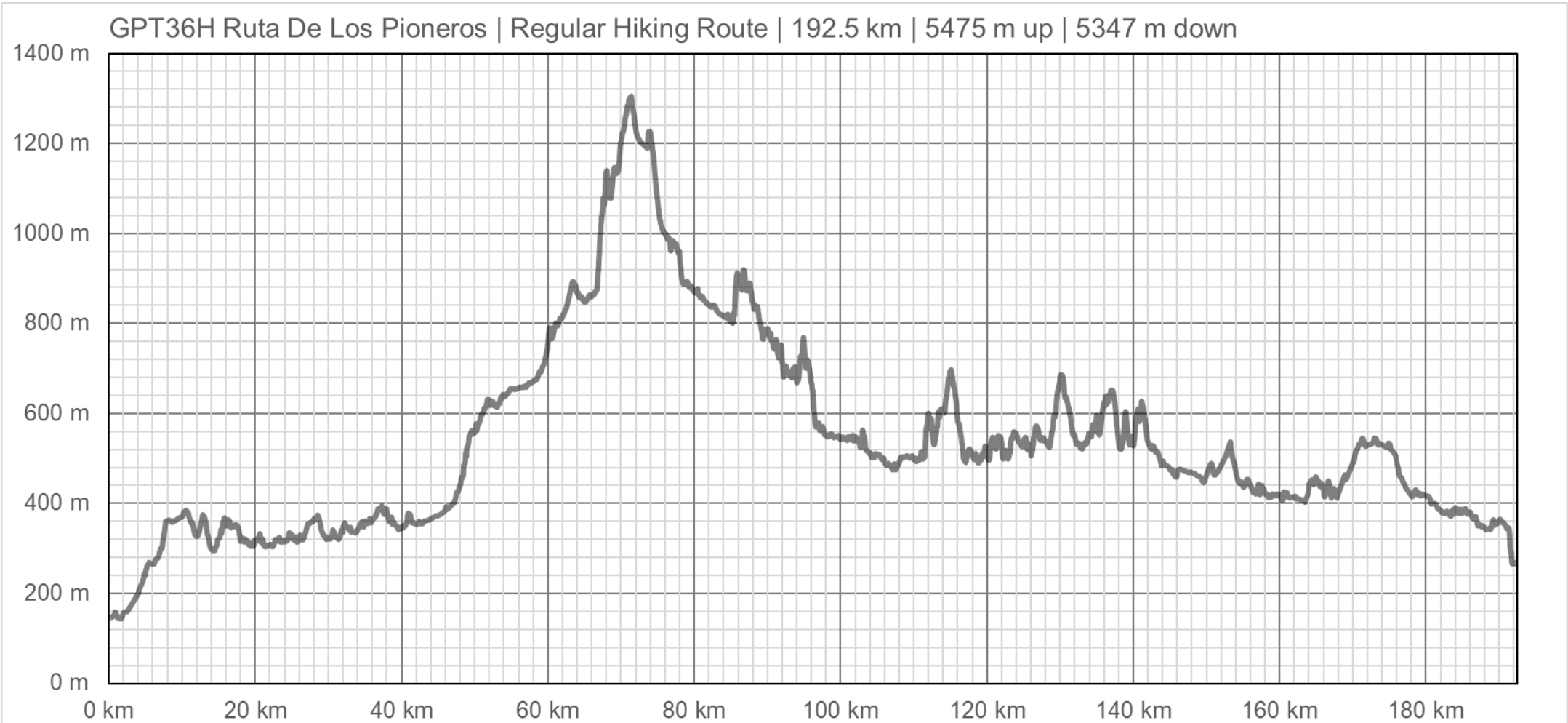
Elevation Profile 70: GPT35 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.46 GPT36H: Ruta De Los Pioneros

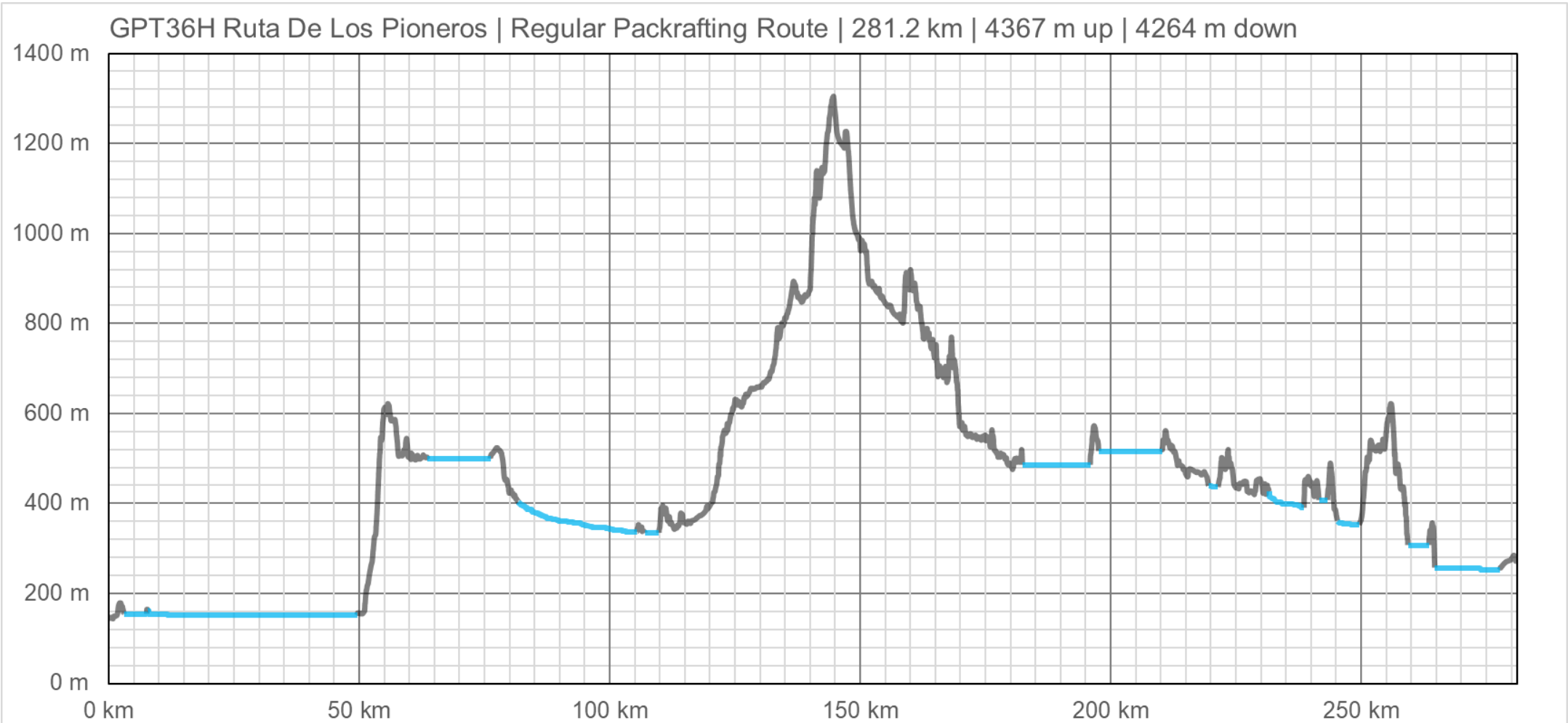
GPT36H: Ruta De Los Pioneros				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**192.5 km**	**55 h**	**281.2 km**	**79 h**
Region	Chile & (Argentina): Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	83.1 km	43.2%	78.3 km	27.8%
Start	Cochrane		Minor Roads (MR)	69.2 km	35.9%	44.5 km	15.8%
Finish	Villa O'Higgins		Primary Roads (PR)	34.6 km	17.9%	7.3 km	2.6%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	5.6 km	2.9%	7.2 km	2.6%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT35, GPT36P, GPT37H, GPT37P, GPT81P		Investigation (I)	-	-	(0.5 km)	(0.2%)
Options	2048 km (30 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**143.9 km**	**51.2%**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		42.2 km	15.0%
Difficulty	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		101.6 km	36.1%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ More lake packrafting, ↑ More river packrafting						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Alpine Terrain, Farmland, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance						

Table 108: GPT36H Section Summary


Satellite Image 90:GPT36H
Cochrane
Lago Posados
Torlel
Villa O'Higgins
GPT36H End
Puerto Mancilla Candelario
Google Earth
Image © 2022 TerraMetrics
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
70 km



Elevation Profile 71: GPT36H Regular Hiking Route



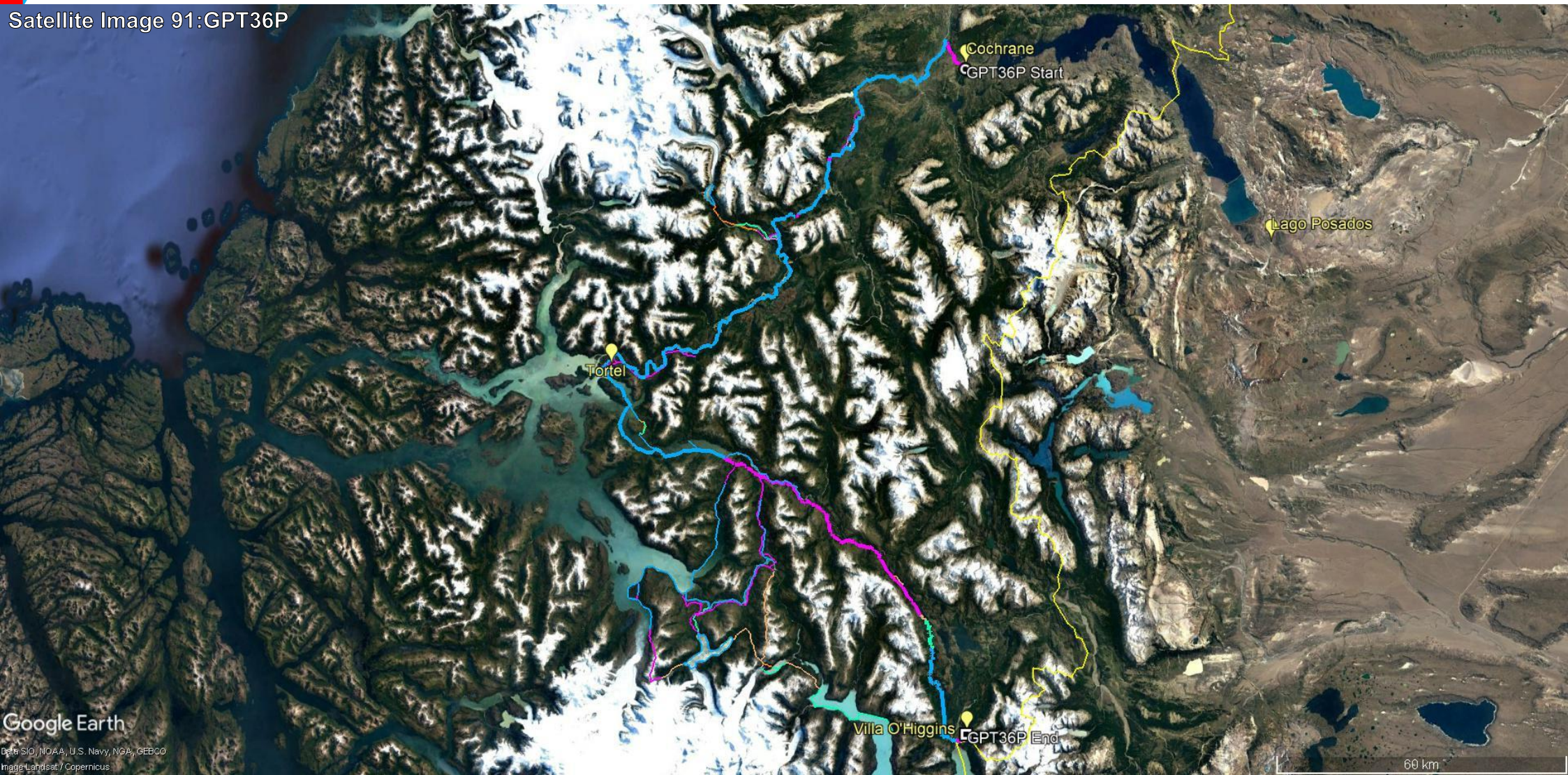
Elevation Profile 72: GPT36P Regular Packrafting Route

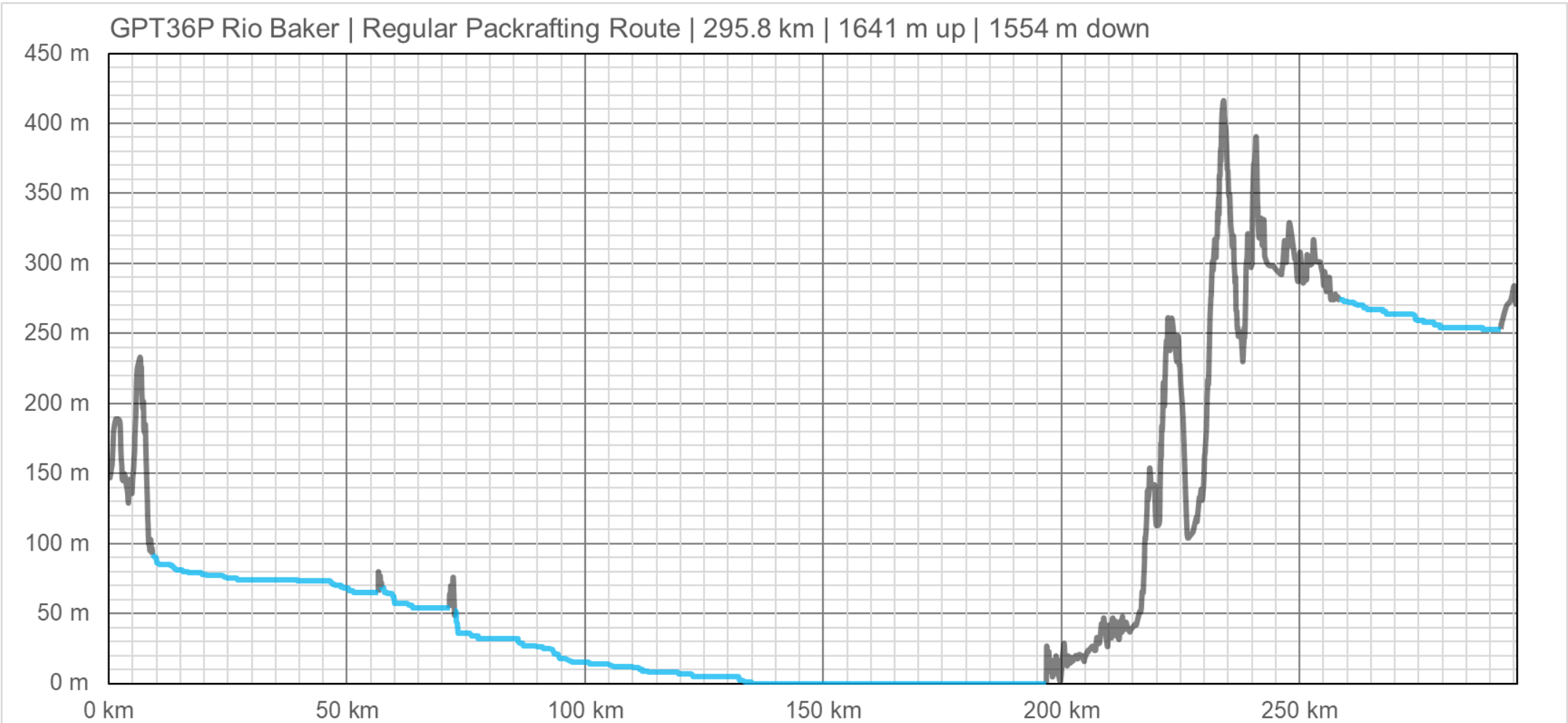
2.5.47 GPT36P: Río Baker

GPT36P: Rio Baker				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	H: Aysen Sur		Total	**-**	**-**	**295.8 km**	**68 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	3.7 km	1.2%
Start	Cochrane		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	1.6 km	0.5%
Finish	Villa O'Higgins		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	70.6 km	23.9%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	(Maybe: Sep - May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT35, GPT36H, GPT37H, GPT37P, GPT81P, GPT82P, GPT91P, GPT92P		Investigation (I)	-	-	(1.9 km)	(0.6%)
Options	442 km (7 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(9.6 km)	(3.2%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**219.9 km**	**74.4%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		165.9 km	56.1%
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		9.7 km	3.3%
Direction	None	Only ↓		Fjord (FJ)		44.3 km	15.0%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 109: GPT36P Section Summary

Satellite Image 91:GPT36P





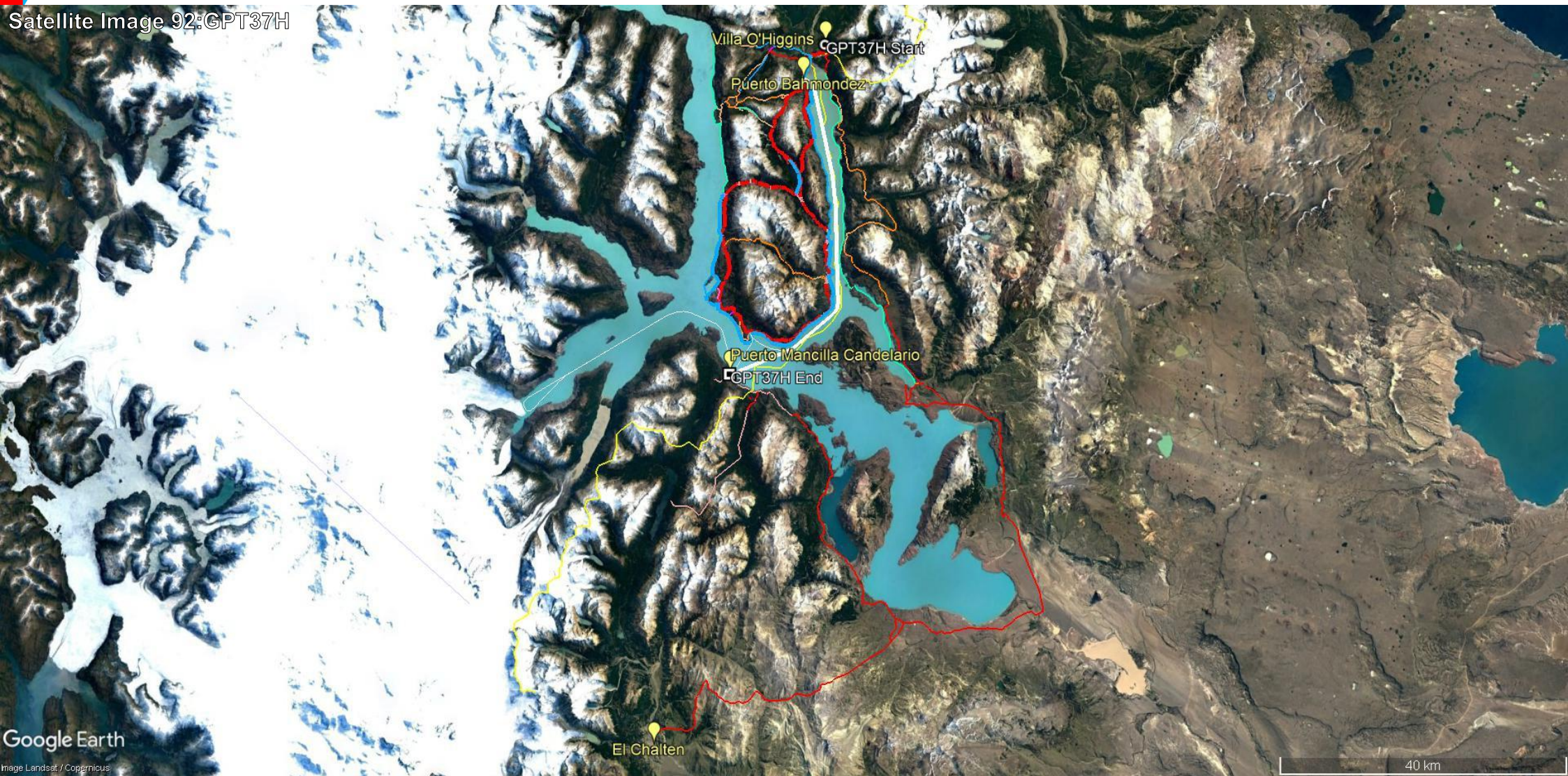
Elevation Profile 73: GPT36P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.48 GPT37H: Peninsula La Florida

GPT37H: Peninsula La Florida				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1		Total	**124.9 km**	**45 h**	**123.3 km**	**39 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	90.4 km	72.4%	29.6 km	24.0%
Start	Villa O'Higgins		Minor Roads (MR)	1.4 km	1.1%	0.8 km	0.7%
Finish	Candelario Mancillo		Primary Roads (PR)	7.6 km	6.1%	3.3 km	2.7%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	25.5 km	20.4%	14.8 km	12.0%
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Ferry Mainly		Ferry (FY)	(50.2 km)	(28.7%)	(50.2 km)	(28.9%)
Connects to	GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT37P, GPT38, GPT39, GPT40, GPT41		Investigation (I)	(4.5 km)	(3.6%)	(3.0 km)	(2.4%)
Options	479 km (8 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**74.9 km**	**60.7%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		2.5 km	2.0%
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		72.4 km	58.7%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Circuit and Ferry						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Mountain Pastures, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance						

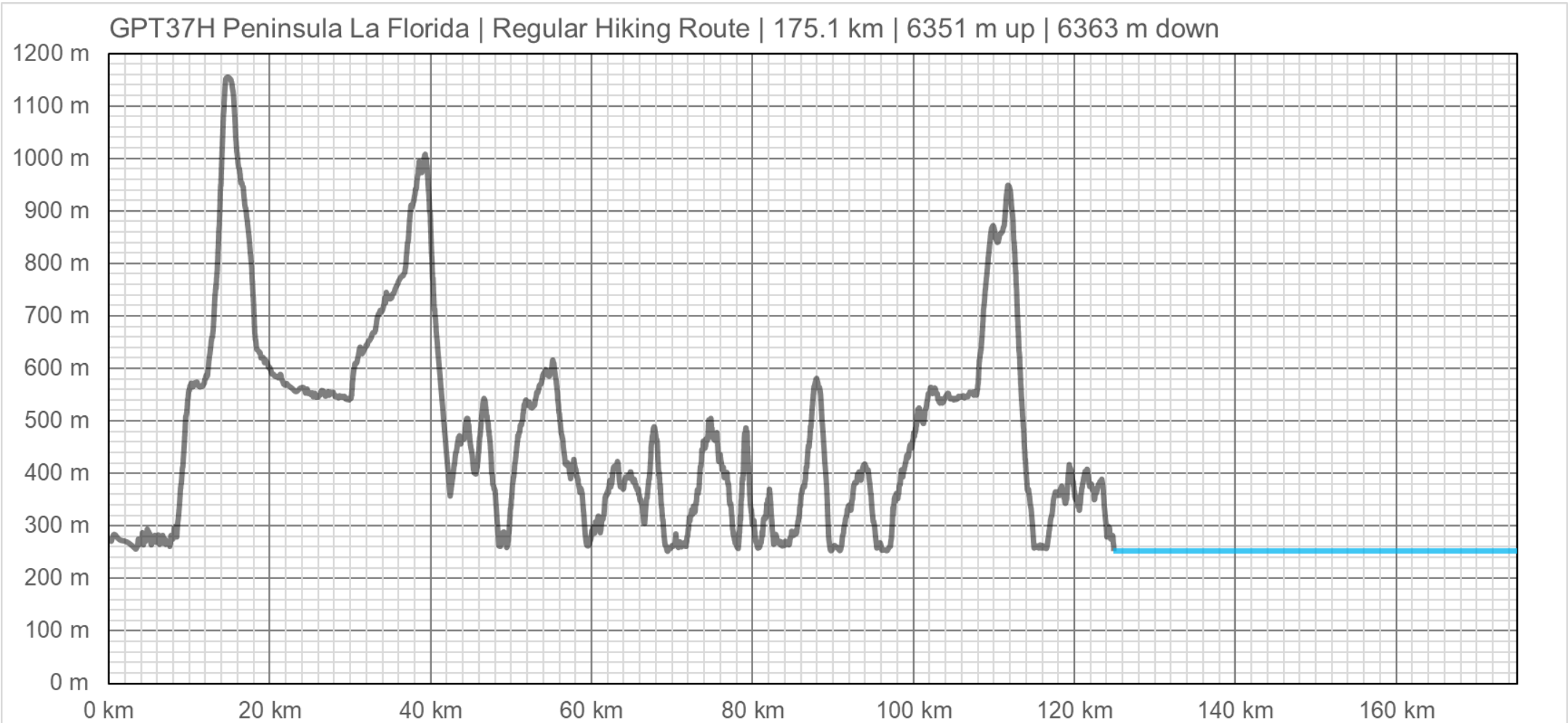
Table 110: GPT37H Section Summary

Satellite Image 92:GPT37H

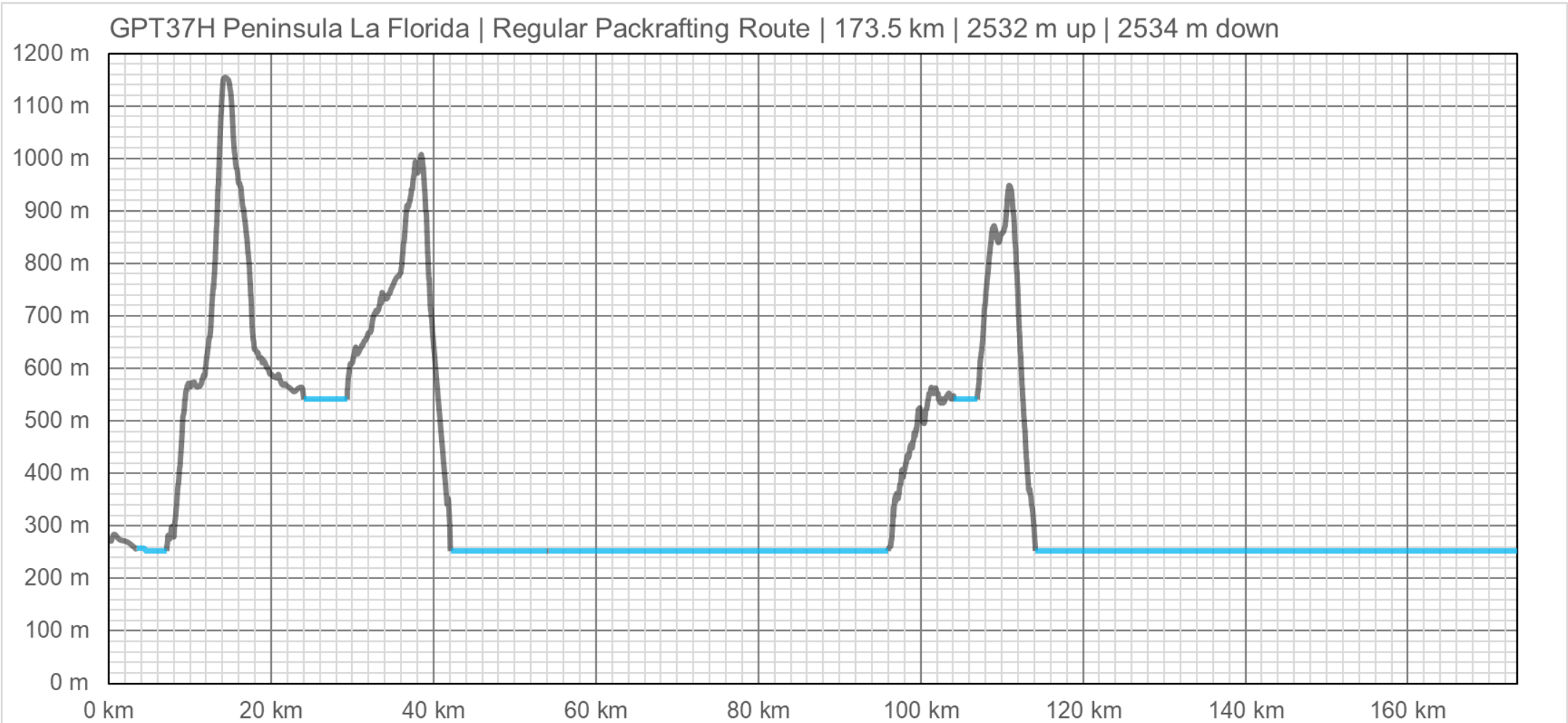


Satellite Image 93:GPT37H Peninsula La Florida





Elevation Profile 74: GPT37H Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 75: GPT37H Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.48.1 General Remarks

The indigenous Aonikenk roomed the wide-open plains of the Patagonian pampa for thousands of years, until the Argentine military conquered their homeland in the second half of the 19th century. The first settlers that followed, collaborated with the government in displacing and murdering the first nations to transform the seized wilderness into grazing land for sheep, cattle, and horses. Introduced infectious diseases were terrifying effective complicits in this genocide.

The geography of Patagonia favoured access from the Atlantic coast in the east as the Valdivian Rainforest along the western Pacific coast forms an impenetrable barrier. Therefore, the first settlers of European descent that reached Lago O'Higgins and the Peninsula la Florida in 1911, came sailing and rowing from the eastern Argentine side of this lake (Lago San Martin[78]).

At this time, the routing of the international border between Chile and Argentina was hotly disputed between the governments in Santiago de Chile and Bueno Aires about 2000 km further north. But this political conflict did not result in a practical barrier on the ground. The settlers could move freely in this remote region. This was a necessity because the first Chilean road[79], did not reach Lago O'Higgins until the year 2000, a whopping 89 years after the first *colonos* arrived.

In the first half of 20th century synthetic fibres were no mass-produced and wool was in high demand to support the rapidly growing production of clothing. This provided the incentive to advance in ever more remote areas, to burn down the forest and to keep large herds of sheep. The decent prices for wool paid for long transport and left sufficient money to supply and feed the settlers

[78] Like for most Patagonian lakes that cross the international border, Chileans and Argentines could not agree on one name, but insisted in different names to nurture their competing national and military pride. But it took several decades until the Chilean settlers started using the Chilean name for the western portion of this lake and called it Lago O'Higgins.
[79] The Carretera Austral reached Villa O'Higgins in 1999. Until then, only few horse trails connected this area with other parts of Chile.

with what could not be produced on their homestead farms. The population on the Peninsula la Florida peaked at the middle of the 20th century when an estimated 100 to 200 people lived on this 15 km wide and 40 km long stretch of land. The large families settled primarily along the cost of Lago O'Higgins and regularly burned down the forest to keep the grazing land open[80].

When synthetic fibres became increasingly available starting in the 1950th, the price for wool collapsed, and most settlers could not sustain their way of life and left. Today, only one family tries to re-establish themselves on the southern tip of the Peninsula la Florida and a few *puesteros* live temporarily on this peninsula. These few remaining settlers still preserve some livestock and do an amazing job in keeping the trials open. Most others have sold or selling the inherited properties to the rich and super-rich, that collect large plots of land like others collect works of art.

So far, hikers have barely ever walked these scenic trails despite the attractive diversity of the landscape and the amazing views over Lago O'Higgins that reach all the way to the Southern Patagonian Icefield. When we investigated and recorded these trails, none of the remaining settlers and *puesteros* could recall having ever seen *mochileros* (hikers or backpackers) on this circuit around Peninsula la Florida. The reason for this neglect is simple; these informal trails have never been documented and published. Also, these trails lack markings and signposts and are difficult to follow without a GPS track. That this neglect lasted to 2022 is somewhat surprising as hundreds if not thousands of hikers pass Peninsula la Florida every year when travelling along the Carretera Austral to Villa O'Higgins and transfer by boat from the starting point of this circuit towards the Hiking Mecca El Chalten further south.

[80] The last large wildfire raged over the Peninsula Florida in the 1990th. Now using fire to keep grazing land open is strictly banned and not any more practiced. Therefore, pastures become increasingly overgrown and the number of animals that can be maintained on Peninsula la Florida dropped sharply.

I now publish this fascinating hiking circuit, hoping that the coming visitors are pleasant guests that prevent with a respectful attitude a possible conflict over the right-of-way. Gradually replacing the declining population of cattle and sheep with hikers during the summer month should not pose a harm to the land but may provide a new source of income for the few remaining settlers.

2.5.48.2 Section Planning Status

The entire circuit on the Peninsula la Florida had been **verified in February 2022** with only few smaller bits and pieces requiring some optimization. This makes a hike of the Regular Route reasonable plannable.

The ferry from Puerto Bahmondes to Candelario Mansilla is an established tourist service but the available seats can sell out quickly. Furthermore, frequent strong wind over Lago O'Higgins often halts this service. This makes the boat trip difficult to plan and some waiting time in Villa O'Higgins should be expected.

Most of the options of section GPT37H are drafted based on verbal descriptions and satellite images and still require verification.

2.5.48.3 Section Attractiveness

The circuit on the Peninsula la Florida consists of well-maintained trails and easy to moderate cross-country walking without any annoying bush-bashing. Also, hikers can walk the southbound and northbound portion of the circuit on different routes therefore no backtracking on the same route is required. The landscape along the route is surprisingly diverse and includes lush forests, open pampa, alpine terrain with glaciers, one pristine mountains lake, walks along refreshing streams and long stretches of panorama trails in the vicinity of Lago O'Higgins. Drinking water and scenic campsite are abundant. In the next few years hikers will also appreciate the sensation to be one of the first visitors. All this makes this circuit a hidden treasure of the GPT.

2.5.48.4 Section Difficulty

The circuit on Peninsula la Florida does not include one specific outstanding challenge but a combination of factors makes this route demanding. The length of 125 km requires carrying food for about one week. The more than 6000 m of ascent and descent puts this circuit in par with other very mountainous sections of the GPT even if the highest point is only 1160 m above sea level. The frequent strong wind exposes hikers to the elements.

After heavy rain some rivers may become difficult or impossible to ford, therefore the weather forecast should be analysed carefully before starting a hike on this circuit. If the window of suitable weather is too short for the full circuit, hikers may take a touristic boat tour to Glaciar O'Higgins and disembark at Bahia Pesacdo on the way back from the glacier to cut the walking distance in half. See the description of the Regular Route for the possible variations of the Regular Route.

Packrafters may often not be able to deploy their packraft as strong wind makes paddling most of the time unsafe.

There was no mobile phone coverage in February 2022 south of Pass {37H} [15.1/1159] (Portezuelo Los Corrales) and Pass {37H} [111.8/948] (Portezuelo el Rose). This is expected to improve later in 2022 when new antennas will be installed at Candelario Mancilla and Isla Central. This should provide some mobile phone coverage on the southern coast of Peninsula la Florida.

In case of an emergency, help is difficult to arrange as there are no roads nearby. An evacuation may require reaching the shore of Lago O'Higgins and arranging a boat transfer back to Puerto Bahmondes or to Candellario Mansilla. This may take several days especially when strong wind prevents navigating on the lake.

2.5.48.5 Recommended Travel Period

The circuit opens ups relatively early in the season and can be walked also in autumn. It probably depends primarily on the weather and the accumulated snow at the 3 major passes if a hike is feasible as early as October and as late as May. **Between November and April**, a hike is expected to be viable.

2.5.48.6 Benefits of Hiking and Packrafting

It is **generally favorable to hike this circuit without packraft** as frequent strong wind limits the opportunities to deploy a packraft. Packrafters may ask the owners of the accommodation in Villa O'Higgins if they can store the packrafting gear while hiking the circuit on Peninsula la Florida.

Carrying a packraft should only be considered if the weather forecast predicts several exceptionally calm days. This may reduce the total ascent and descent from 6400 m to 2500 m if weather luck permits paddling all 75 km on water.

A packraft is required if planning to cross Lago O'Higgins to either connect with the Regular Route of section GPT38 near Candelario Mansilla or with one of the options of section GPT37P on the western shore of Lago O'Higgins. Such a lake crossing is best attempted with a closed packraft (with spray deck) on a rare calm morning of evening. If attempting such a crossing, a substantial amount of extra food should be carried as this attempt may require several days of waiting for a suitable calm moment.

2.5.48.7 Recommended Travel Direction

There is no one-way-obstacle, therefore the circuit can be walked and packrafted clockwise or counter-clockwise.

This said, **hiking this circuit counter-clockwise may be slightly more scenic** as hikers can appreciate the view towards the Southern Patagonian Icefield while walking southbound on western trail next to Brazo Norte or Brazo Desague of Lago O'Higgins.

Packrafters should also attempt a counter-clockwise travel as this increases the water distance that is aligned with the predominant wind direction (Brazo Norte or Brazo Desague with mostly southbound wind, narrow from Bahia Once Hermanos to settler La Florida with predominant westbound wind).

Packrafters that attempt to cross Lago O'Higgins to connect section GPT37H with GPT38 should consider a northbound travel. This has two benefits:

1. Packrafters more easily reach the opposite shore if the predominant wind increases while crossing the narrow from Bahia Esmeralda (or Bahia Covadonga) to Bahia Once Hermanos. If wind increases halfway, then packrafters can partially turn with the wind and still reach the opposite shore without being blown into the wide open lake southeast of the narrow.

2. If waiting near Bahia Esmeralda (or Bahia Covadonga) packrafters can more easily resupply or abord in Candelario Mansilla if the weather remains unfavourable for a lake crossing in a packraft.

This recommendation changes once the family at Settler {37H} [70.2/264] (Bahia Pescado) is well-established, reachable by mobile phone and offer boat transfers to Candelario Mansilla. Then packrafters can hike to Bahia Pescado and wait a few days for a suitable weather window to cross the narrow. If the wind does not get calm enough for a packraft crossing but sufficiently calm for a motor boat crossing, then packrafters may take this service instead of paddling.

2.5.48.8 Section Length and Travel Duration

The full 125 km circuit from Villa O'Higgins via Puerto Bahmondes to the southern tip of Peninsula la Florida and back to Puerto Bahmondes requires approx. **6 to 8 days** (45 hours calculated walking time).

This distance can be cut in half by taking a touristic boat tour to Glaciar O'Higgins and disembark at Bahia Pesacdo on the way back from the glacier. The same is possible once the family at Settler {37H} [70.2/264] (Bahia Pescado) is well-established, reachable by mobile phone and offer motorboat transfers to Candelario Mansilla. Then hikers can walk 70 km one-way to Bahia Pescado and connect by motorboat to the regular starting point of GPT38 in Candelario Mansilla.

A short visit of Peninsula la Florida is also possible by walking only to Laguna Verde and back to Puerto Bahmondes on the alternative route. Walking this short circuit should not take more 2 or 3 days but skips the scenic panorama trails along the coast of Lago O'Higgins.

See the description of the Regular Route for the possible variations of the Regular Route.

Travelling the full circuit by packraft is less predictable as strong wind often impedes paddling. If lucky with the wind, the full circuit with a packraft is faster than when hiking only as a good number of ascents and descents are eliminated when paddling along the shore. But with strong wind and high waves packrafter may either spend a considerable time waiting or hauling the packraft uphill and downhill on the panorama trail along the coast.

2.5.48.9 Suitable Section Combinations

Hikers can combine Section GPT37H with GPT38 without returning to Villa O'Higgins for resupplying once the family at Settler {37H} [70.2/264] (Bahia Pescado) is well-established, reachable by mobile phone and offer motorboat transfers to Candelario Mansilla. This would require carrying the food for both sections or purchasing food from the settler at Bahia Pescado.

2.5.48.10 Resupply

2.5.48.10.1 Resupply Towns

Villa O'Higgins at the start of GPT37H is the only proper resupply location for this section. Every summer long-distance bikers, backpackers and regular tourists crowed this village. This promoted a decent touristic infrastructure with a good number of shops, restaurants, and accommodations that happily cater guests.

The range of products in the approximately 10 grocery stores is limited but fully sufficient to stock up for a one-week hike with a diversity of cocked meals, cereals, and snacks. Camping gas is also available. Most shops accept credit cards. The quantity and quality of fruits and vegetables depends on the numbers of days that have passed since the last supply truck arrived.

The popular camping El Mosco is located right in center. Another campsite; Eco Camping Tsonek; is just 750 m further north next to the Carretera Austral and is quieter and more spacy. Several hostels and numerous cabañas provide a proper roof and cosy beds for travellers. There are also numerous restaurants that serve large plates to hungry travellers.

What cannot be found in Villa O'Higgins is an ATM. Therefore, sufficient cash should be withdrawn in Coyhaique or Cochrane when travelling southbound. If planning to cross into Argentina on GPT38, then carrying USD or EUR might be beneficial.

2.5.48.10.2 Resupply on the Trail

There is currently **no reliable resupply en rute** on Peninsula la Florida.

Hikers and packrafters may be fortunate to purchase some food from the Settler {37H} [70.2/264] (Bahia Pescado) but this is best verified by speaking with this family via radio or mobile phone before departing from Villa O'Higgins.

Alternatively, a resupply box with food and drinks (want a cold beer halfway?) may be send to Bahia Pescado before departing from Villa O'Higgins. A government subsidized resupply boat visits all settlers along the shore of Lago O'Higgins about once every 10 days. If considering this option, then visit Senora Florentina at Transport {37H} [0.0/269] (Florentina) while resupplying in Villa O'Higgins. If the next resupply tour is scheduled before your expected arrival date at Bahia Pescado, then a resupply box may be handed over to Florentina in Villa O'Higgins. Label the box with the destination "Bahia Pescado" and your name. The family at Bahia Pescado will guard your resupply box until you arrive. If you use this service, you may ask this family via radio or mobile phone if they need something from Villa O'Higgins (in example fruits and vegetables).

Contact information to Settler {37H} [70.2/264] (Bahia Pescado)

Nicole Zúñiga Meier, Misael Tisnado and their son Facundo
Mobile Phone:
Radio:

2.5.48.11 Access to Route and Return

2.5.48.11.1 Access to Start

The attractive hiking circuit starts and ends in Puerto Bahmondes. To get to Puerto Bahmondes hikers best take the Regular Route that starts at the main square of Villa O'Higgins and walk the initial 7.6 km on a primary road. There is no regular transport to Puerto Bahmondes, but hikers that hate road walking may try to hitchhike if a vehicle passes.

Alternatively, hikers can arrange a boat transfer to or from Bahia Pescado at the southern top of Peninsula la Florida. An established tourist service in Villa O'Higgins offers sightseeing tours to Glaciar O'Higgins and transfers to Candelario Mancilla. On request the boat may stop at Bahia Pescado to disembark or board passengers. Inquire before booking a ticket.

If opting for such a boat transfer, it is advisable to arrange the transfer from Puerto Bahmondes to Bahia Pescado since strong wind on Lago O'Higgins often impedes such boat tours (instead of arranging a pickup at Bahia Pescado). This avoids a non-plannable waiting stop at Bahia Pescado. Hiking back to Puerto Bahmondes and Villa O'Higgins is less weather dependent.

2.5.48.11.2 Return from Finish

Returning hikers may either walk back from Puerto Bahmondes to Villa O'Higgins on primary road or try to hitchhike. Especially in the afternoon tourists in cars drive to Puerto Bahmondes to take selfies at the end of the Carretera Austral.

Once the settler at Bahia Pescado has a motorboat and reliable communication, it becomes possible to arrange a transfer from Bahia Pescado to Candelario Mansilla (or a pickup at Candelario Mansilla). This shortens a combination of GPT37H with GPT38.

2.5.48.11.3 Escape Options

There is no convenient escape option if returning to Puerto Bahmondes is not feasible.

In case of an emergency that requires an evacuation, hikers may try to reach the shore of Lago O'Higgins after verifying if a motorboat may come for rescue. Motorboats are operated by private enterprises (*Las Ruedas*), the police (*Carabiñeros*) and the Chilean navy (*Marina Chilena*). As further away from Puerto Bahmondes, as more time consuming and costly an evacuation becomes.

If being able to wait a pickup at the shore may be arranged with one of the tourist tours (*Las Ruedas*) that visit the Glaciar O'Higgins or with the supply boat that tours about every 10 days all settlers on the shore of Lago O'Higgins.

2.5.48.12 Permits, Entry Fees and Right-of-Way Issues

When investigating the Regular Route no right-of-way issues were encountered and no permits or entry fees were requested.

A few hundred meters after Puerto Bahmondes the trail passes the small hydro power station of Villa O'Higgins. A signpost prohibits entry of "*personal no autorizado*" and a camera monitors the area but presumably nobody gets bothered if just passing the area via the only bridge without wandering around in the installation.

If challenged, hikers may state that they are on the way to (or returning from) Bahia Pescado, to visit Misael Tisnado, Nicole Zúñiga Meier, and their son Facundo.

2.5.48.13 Regular Route

2.5.48.13.1 Regular Route Variations

The 8-shaped Regular Route with two possible start and finish points; Villa O’Higgins and Bahia Pescado; enables multiple variations on the Regular Route with different hiking durations. These permits adjusting the personal chosen hiking route to the predicted weather and the available time.

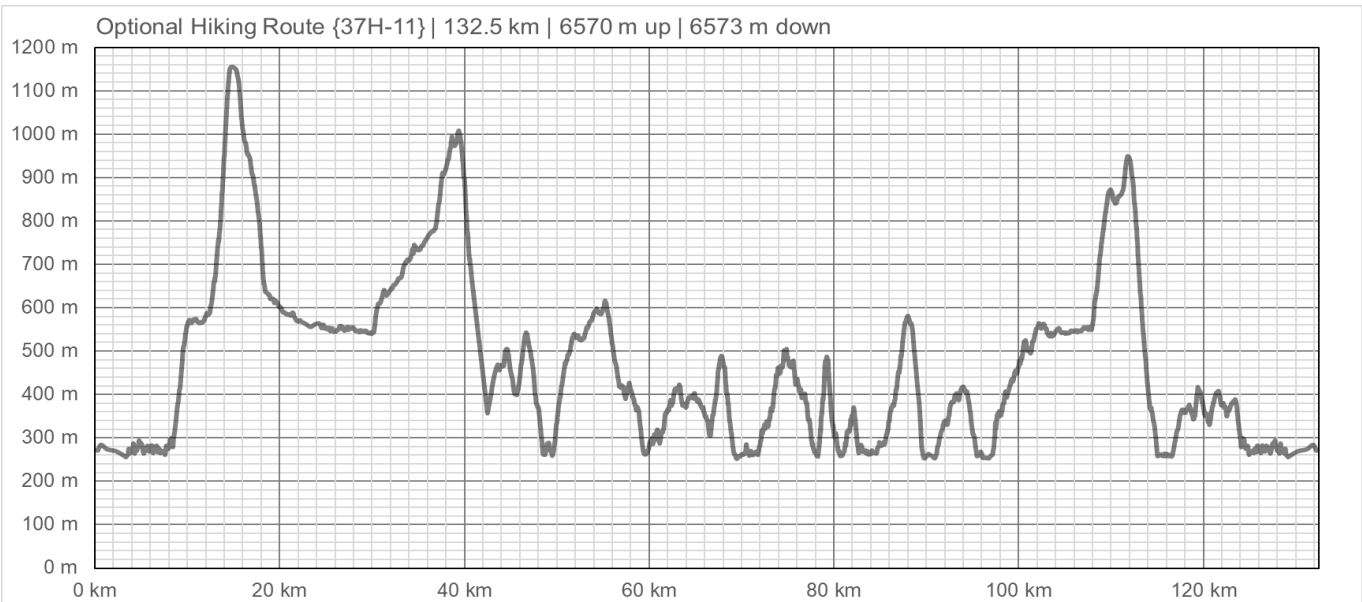
By starting or finishing at Bahia Pescado the entire length of the Peninsula la Florida can be traversed in half the time compared to the full circuit. This requires one boat transfer to or from Bahia Pescado.

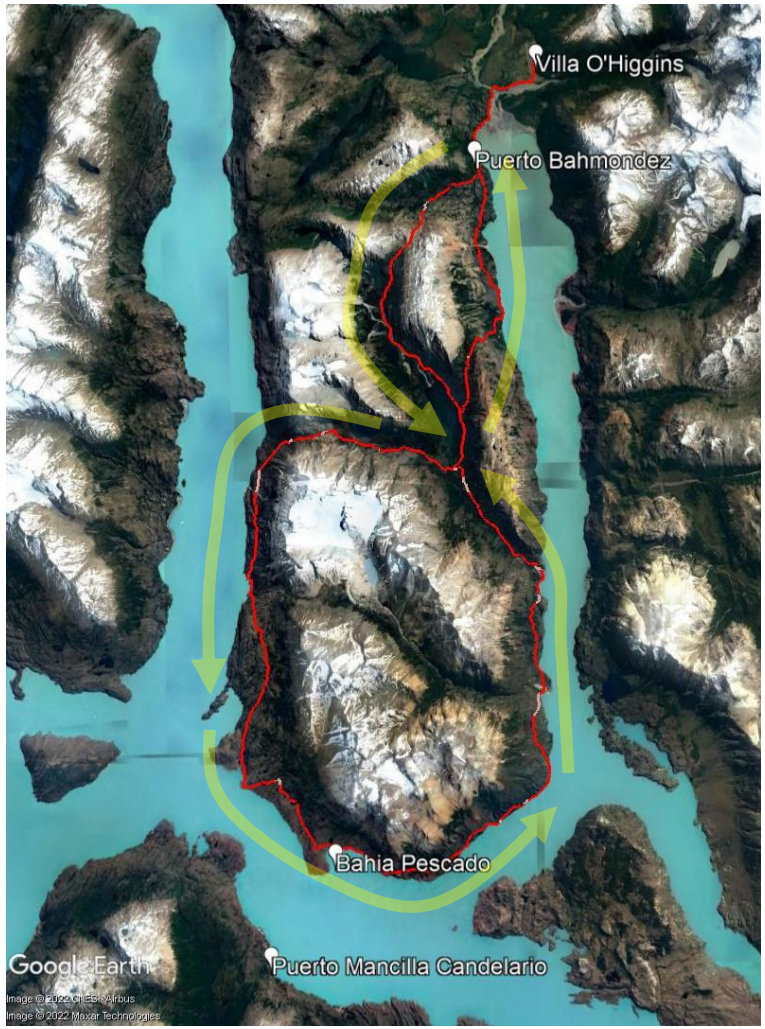
Alternatively, a small circuit can be hiked by walking from Villa O’Higgins to Laguna Verde and back.

In the following, 6 possible variations of the Regular Route are presented and discussed.

GPT37H Regular Route Variation “Full 8 Circuit”			
Hiking Days	**Distance**	**Ascent & Descent**	**Moving Time**
6 to 9 days	132.5 km	6570 m	Approx. 51 h
Start	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Finish	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Benefits	Appreciating all highlights of the Regular Route No boat transfer required		
Disadvantages	Total duration of 6 to 8 days without resupply		

Table 111 Summary of Variation GPT37H “Full 8 Circuit”



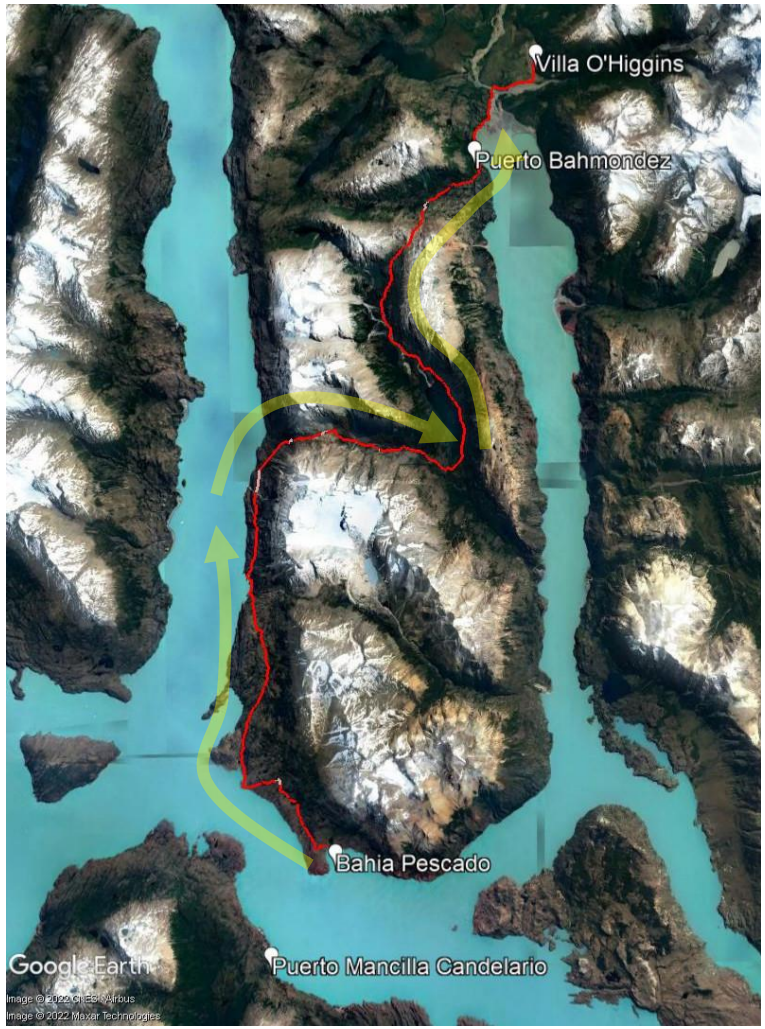


Picture 356: Circuit Full 8. Image: Google Earth

GPT37H Regular Route Variation “West Traverse”			
Hiking Days	**Distance**	**Ascent & Descent**	**Moving Time**
3 to 5 days	69.5 km	3290 m	Approx. 26 h
Start	Bahia Pescado		
Finish	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Benefits	Appreciating the more attractive panorama trails and Laguna Verde, Shorter duration		
Disadvantages	One boat transfer to Bahia Pescado required		

Table 112 Summary of GPT37H Regular Route Variation “West Traverse”

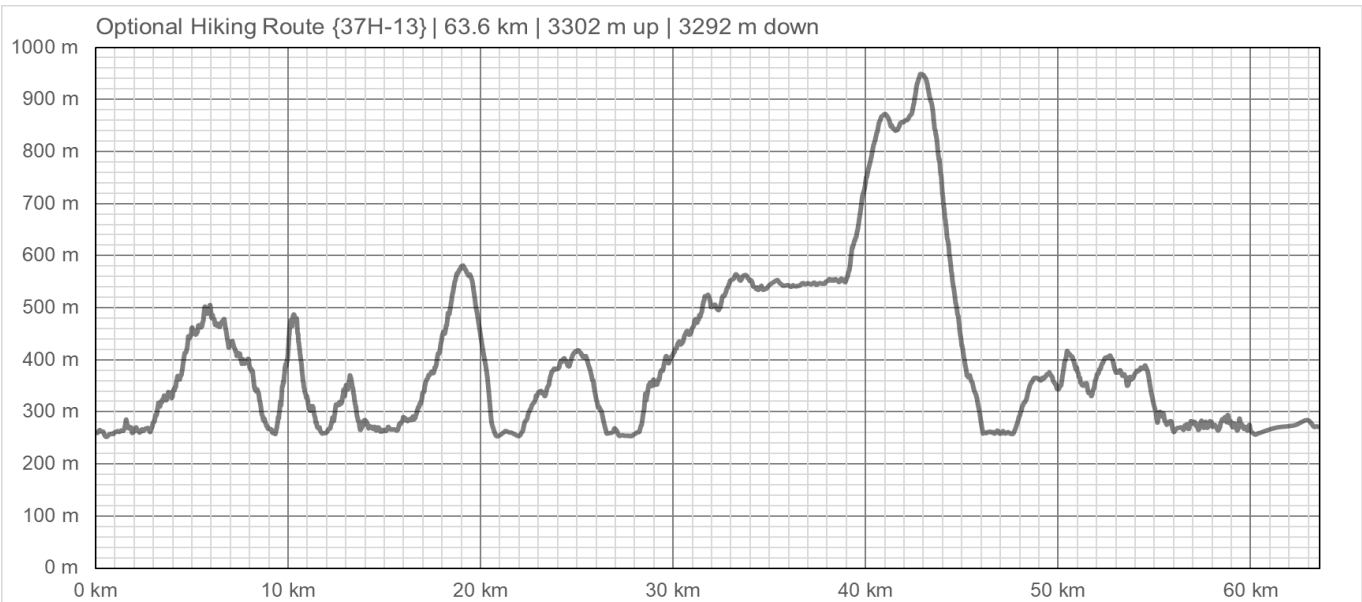


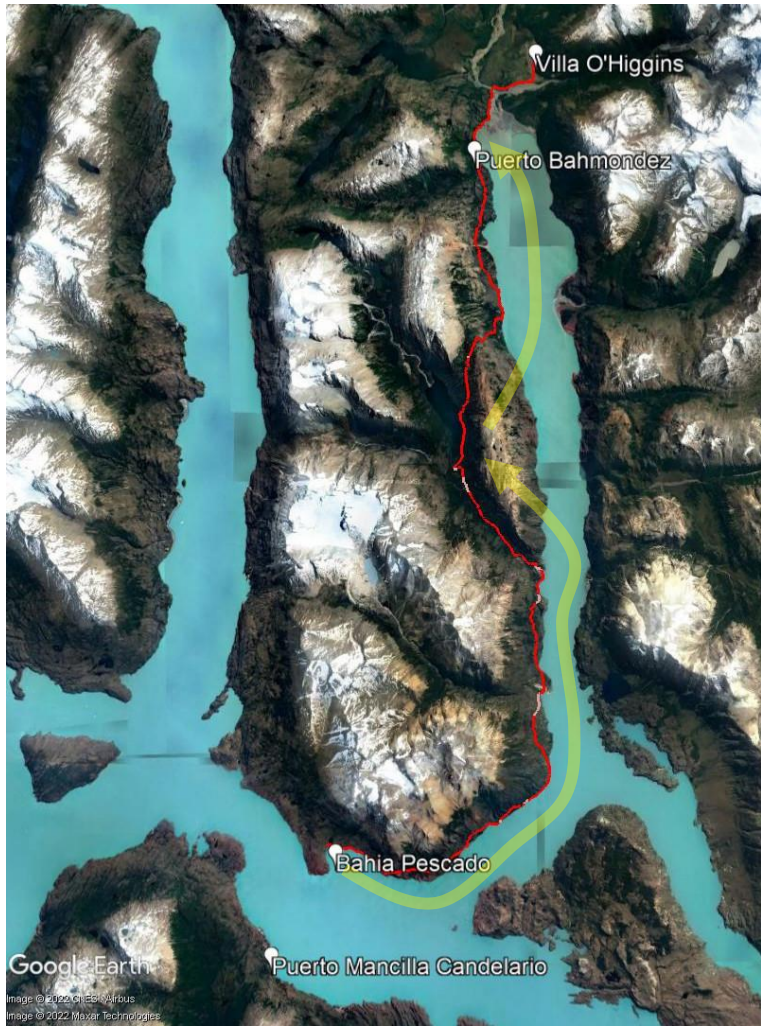


Picture 357: Circuit Full 8. Image: Google Earth

GPT37H Regular Route Variation “East Traverse”			
Hiking Days	**Distance**	**Ascent & Descent**	**Moving Time**
3 to 5 days	63.6 km	3300 m	Approx. 25 h
Start	Bahia Pescado		
Finish	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Benefits	Appreciating a good part of the panorama trails and Laguna Verde, Shorter duration		
Disadvantages	One boat transfer to Bahia Pescado required		

Table 113 Summary of GPT37H Regular Route Variation “East Traverse”

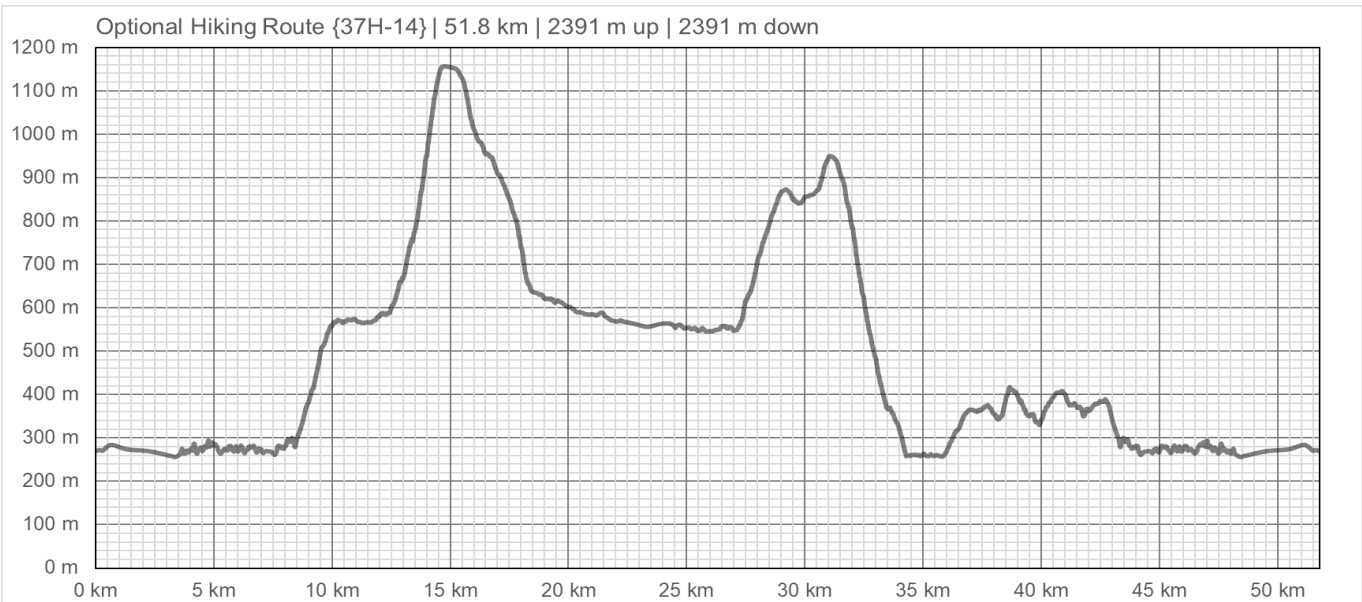


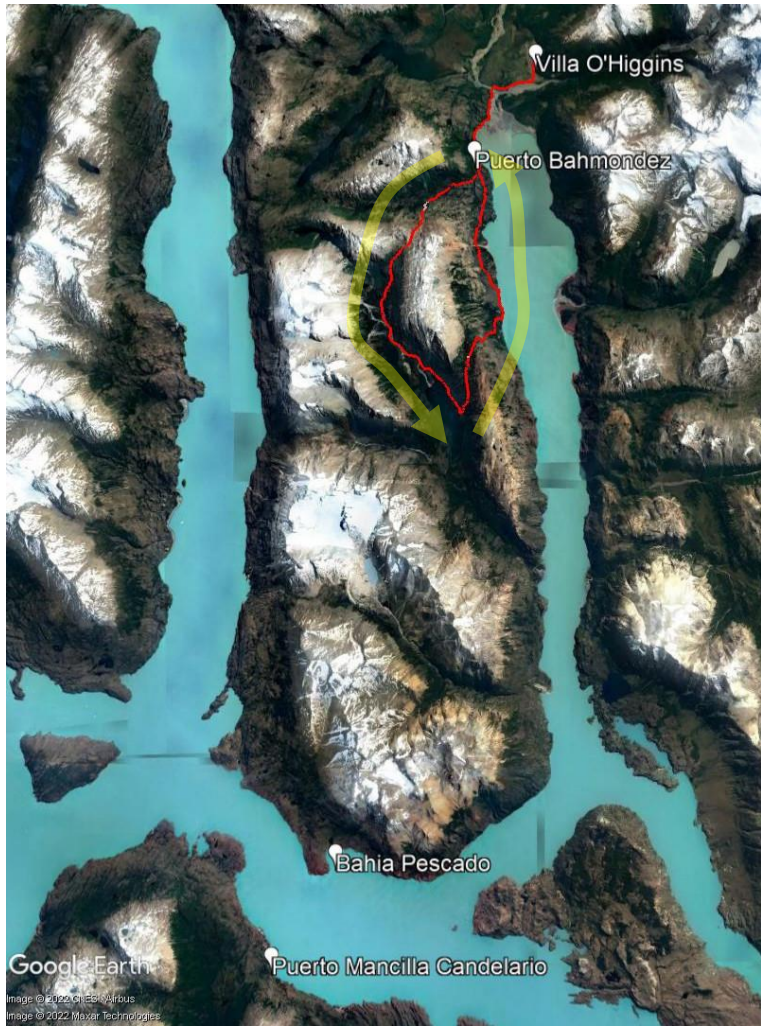


Picture 358: Circuit Full 8. Image: Google Earth

GPT37H Regular Route Variation “North Circuit”			
Hiking Days	**Distance**	**Ascent & Descent**	**Moving Time**
2 to 4 days	51.8 km	2390 m	Approx. 19 h
Start	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Finish	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Benefits	Appreciating Laguna Verde, Short duration, No boat transfer required		
Disadvantages	Missing most of the panorama trails		

Table 114 Summary of GPT37H Regular Route Variation “North Circuit”

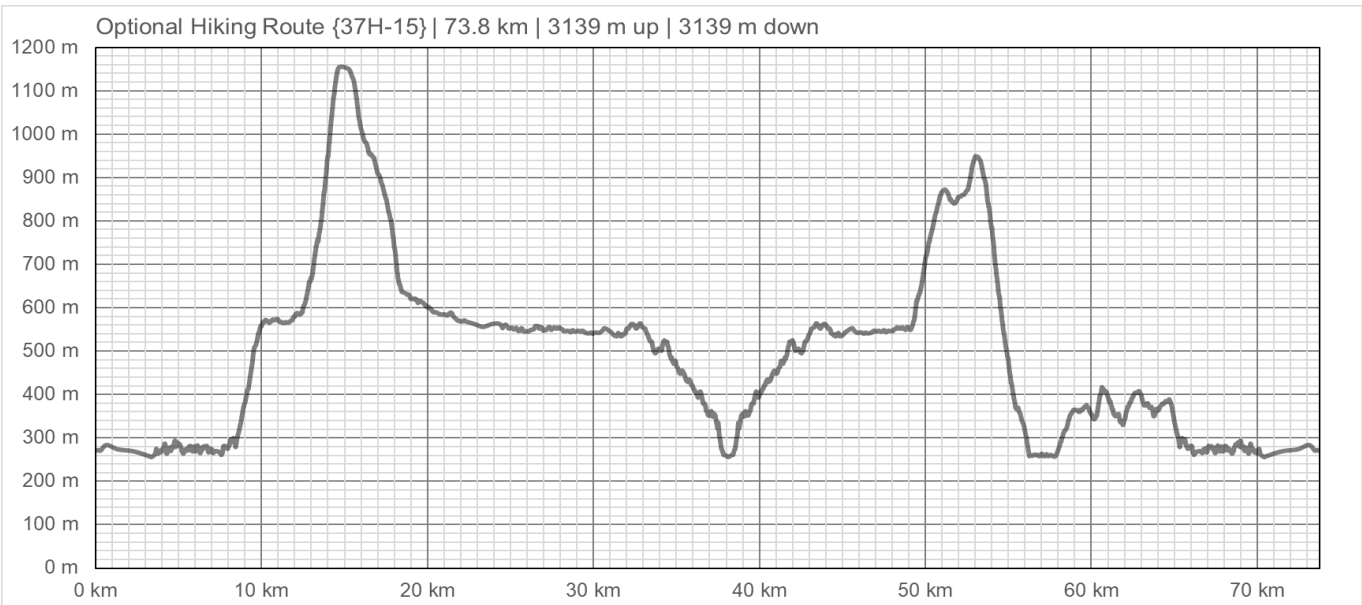


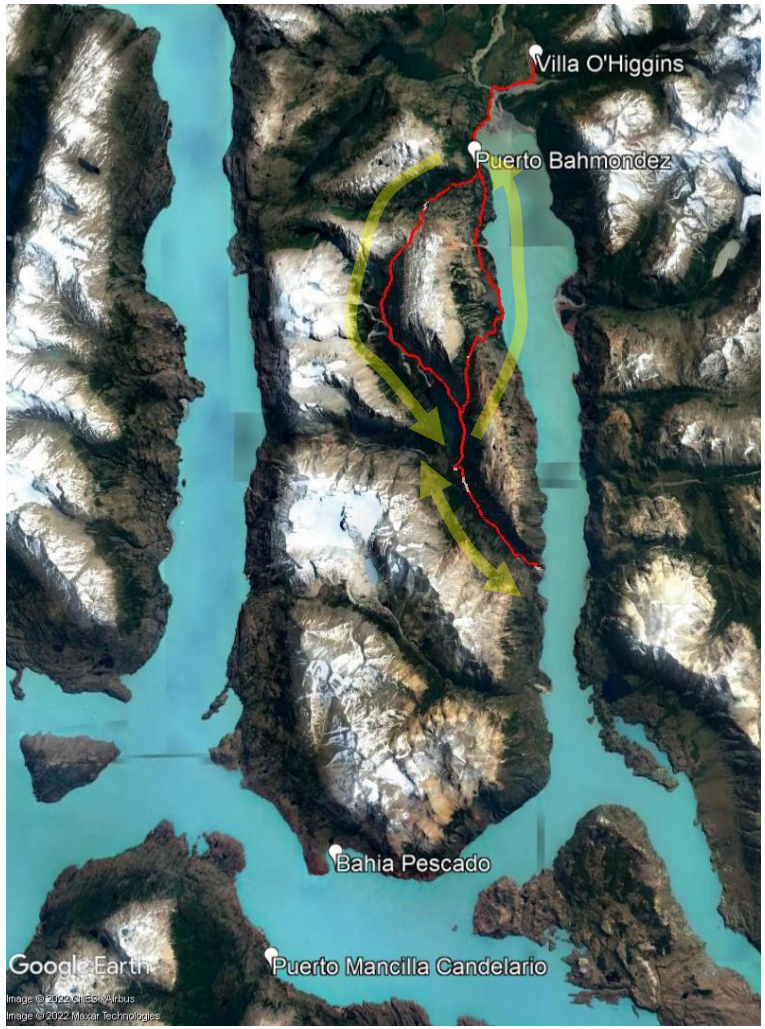


Picture 359: Circuit Full 8. Image: Google Earth

GPT37H Regular Route Variation “Q Circuit”			
Hiking Days	**Distance**	**Ascent & Descent**	**Moving Time**
3 to 5 days	73.8 km	3140 m	Approx. 27 h
Start	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Finish	Villa O’Higgins (or Puerto Bahmondes)		
Benefits	Appreciating Laguna Verde and Bahia San Martin, Shorter duration, No boat transfer required		
Disadvantages	Missing most of the panorama trails		

Table 115 Summary of GPT37H Regular Route Variation “Q Circuit”



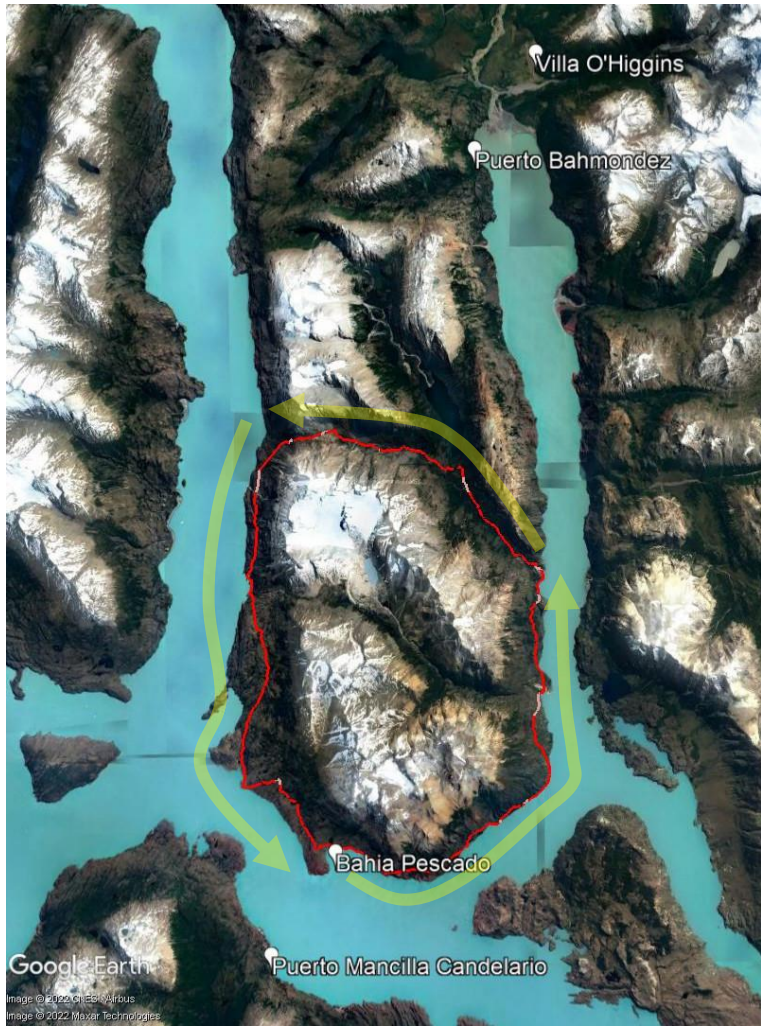


Picture 360: Circuit Full 8. Image: Google Earth

GPT37H Regular Route Variation “South Circuit”			
Hiking Days	**Distance**	**Ascent & Descent**	**Moving Time**
4 to 6 days	75.3 km	4120 m	Approx. 30 h
Start	Bahia Pescado		
Finish	Bahia Pescado		
Benefits	Appreciating most of the panorama trails and Laguna Verde with only one higher pass		
Disadvantages	Two boat transfers to and from Bahia Pescado required		

Table 116 Summary of GPT37H Regular Route Variation “South Circuit”





Picture 361: Circuit Full 8. Image: Google Earth

2.5.48.13.2 Regular Hiking Route

Primary Road from Villa O'Higgins to Puerto Bahmondes: Kilometer {37H} [0.0] to Kilometer {37H} [7.6]

A well-maintained wide gravel road connects Villa O'Higgins with Puerto Bahmondes. The road crosses Rio Mayer on a large suspending bridge from which the Brazo Nordeste of Lago O'Higgins and the eastern side of Peninsula la Florida can be seen. At the port, this branch of the Carretera Austral terminates and passenger ferries disembark from Ferry {37H} [7.6/269] (Puerto Bahmondez) to Ferry {37H} [175.1/291] (Candelario Mansilla). Hikers that dislike road walking may try to hitchhike if a vehicle passes.



Picture 362: View from the suspending bridge over Rio Mayer. Image: Jan Dudeck

Ascent along Rio Salto: Kilometer {37H} [7.6] to Kilometer {37H} [12.4]

After passing the port, a smaller gravel road continues a few hundred meters to the hydro power station, that supplies Villa O'Higgins with electricity. A sign "*Prohibido entrar - Solo personal autorizado*" (or similar) prohibits entry but apparently, this is the primary passage into Peninsula la Florida. There is also a camera installed but hikers are probably not challenged if not remaining in this area. Inside the facility, a small bridge crosses Rio Salto. After the bridge, a trail of variable visibility first descents and then ascents in some distance to Rio Salto that remains right of the



Picture 363: Ascent along Rio Salto. Image: Jan D.

trail. The trail occasionally divides into different branches that often re-join into a single trail. After a 300 m climb the trail levels off at an altitude of 570 m and enters a forest. Here the trail vanishes, and a network of vague animal tracks crosses several times the easily fordable Rio Salto. Eventually, the Regular Route leaves the forest.

There are numerous scenic camp sites inside the forest next to the river. The next suitable location to pitch a tent comes after the pass Portezuelo Los Corrales, which is 2:00 h to 2:30 h walking time away.



Picture 364: Ascent to Portezuelo Los Corrales. Image: Jan Dudeck

Southbound Ascent to Portezuelo Los Corrales: Kilometer {37H} [12.4] to Kilometer {37H} [15.1]:

The trail diversion where the ascent starts is only vaguely visible. Therefore, hikers should closely monitor their navigation device to divert at X {37H} [12.4/575] and follow track RR-TL-I {37H} [12.0/12.4+0.6] for the ascending trail. If missing this trail, the Optional Route OH-CC&TL-A {37H-A} [0.0+0.8] can be followed. This option includes some cross-country walking and re-joins Regular Route a bit higher up. The trail ascents in steep terrain with numerous switchbacks on occasionally loose gravel. Often, more than one trail is visible. When approaching the 1159 m high pass at Pass {37H} [15.1/1159] (Portezuelo Los Corrales) the terrain level out and widens and the trail completely dissipates.

The last good option to refill water bottles is passed after the first 100 m of ascent at Water {37H} [12.9/655].

Southbound Descent from Portezuelo Los Corrales: Kilometer {37H} [15.1] to Kilometer {37H} [18.4]



Picture 365: Southbound view from Portezuelo Los Corrales. Image: Jan Dudeck

After the Pass {37H} [15.1/1159] (Portezuelo Los Corrales), hikers continue cross-country and should aim towards the right side of the creek that shortly after the pass descents into small canyon. On the right side of this small canyon a vaguely visible trail emerges. About one kilometer after the pass, the first patches of forest are reached, and small streams offer fresh drinking water. These patches of trees amidst mountain pastures offer some protection for a tent. The trail becomes more dominant during the descent especially once the trail enters denser forest. After a 500 m descent the river valley is reached. There are suitable spots to setup a tent on either side of the river ford Ford, Camp {37H} [18.4/637].

River Valley to Laguna Verde: Kilometer {37H} [18.4] to Kilometer {37H} [24.5]

The next 5 km of the Regular Route follow the river in the wide and mostly flat valley to Laguna Verde. To the west of the valley are several glacier-covered mountains. There is often no distinct trail but just vague animal tracks or no trail at all. The route fords three times rivers and leads over the dry gravel banks next to the river. About 1 km before reaching Laguna Verde hikers can walk cross country through a reasonable open forest that is free of annoying undergrowth. When reaching the northern terminus of Laguna Verde a well maintained trail will be intersected.

Pitching a tent along this route should be possible especially in the forest.



Picture 366: Cerro Taitao to the west of the route. Image: Jan Dudeck

Laguna Verde: Kilometer {37H} [24.5] to Kilometer {37H} [30.3]



Picture 368: Trail next to Laguna Verde.



Picture 369: Ford of Rio San Martin. Image: Jan



Picture 367: Beach walking next to Laguna Verde. Image: Jan Dudeck

The Regular Route leads along the eastern side of the 5 kilometer long Laguna Verde. The Regular Route consists of a well-maintained trail in the forest next to the lake and cross country walking along the beach of Laguna Verde. The settlers have cut fallen trees to facilitate the movement of animals. At the southern terminus of Laguna Verde the Regular Route leaves the beach, passes a large corral and leads to the Ford, X {37H} [30.3/575] (Rio San Martin) which is 200 m downstream of the drain of Laguna Verde.

The scenic terrain in the vicinity of Laguna Verde invites for pitching a tent for one night. Several pastures and corrals at the southern terminus are ideal for camping.

Westbound Ascent to Cañadon los Patos:
Kilometer {37H} [30.3] to Kilometer {37H} [39.4]

After fording Rio San Martin, a clearly visible trail ascents briefly in the forest and leads into open grazing land where the original forest had been burned down; the traditional method to “cultivate land”. 1.3 km after the ford of Rio San Martin the visible trail ends, and a cross country walk along a scenic river starts. The small river needs to be crossed at least once. The route occasionally enters the forest south of the river where bits and pieces of maintained trail can be found. Towards the pass the route becomes steeper and finally traverses muddy terrain when reaching the saddle at Pass {37H} [39.4/1006] (Canadon los Patos).



Picture 370: Remains of the burned forest. Image: Jan Dudeck

The scenic valley offers several attractive spots for pitching a tent especially after the river ford at Kilometer {37H} [31.7] and before the first longer ascent in rocky terrain that starts at Kilometer {37H} [36.9].

Westbound Descent from Cañadon los Patos: Kilometer {37H} [39.4] to Kilometer {37H} [41.7]

After the pass, the Regular Route first descents on a mostly visible trail through forest. The visible trail ends after a 300 m descent in open terrain. Where the trail dissipates, hikers need to continue their descent cross country in south-western direction. Several animal tracks from grazing cattle can be followed but care must be taken to aim for the next trail head at Trail {37H} [41.7/344] in about 2 km distance. Careful navigation is required to not descent by error directly down towards the lake.

Hikers that wish to camp near the pass can refill all their water bottles at the last river Ford {37H} [38.9/982], which is located 500 m before the pass and pitch their tent 400 m after the pass on a patch of flat terrain at Camp no Water {37H} [39.8/931]. The forest should provide a good wind shelter but there is no water source nearby. The next well-sheltered camp is at Camp no Water {37H} [45.3/415], about 6 km after the pass near the second river crossing after the pass. But in calm weather more camp option can be found after the trailhead at Trail {37H} [41.7/344].

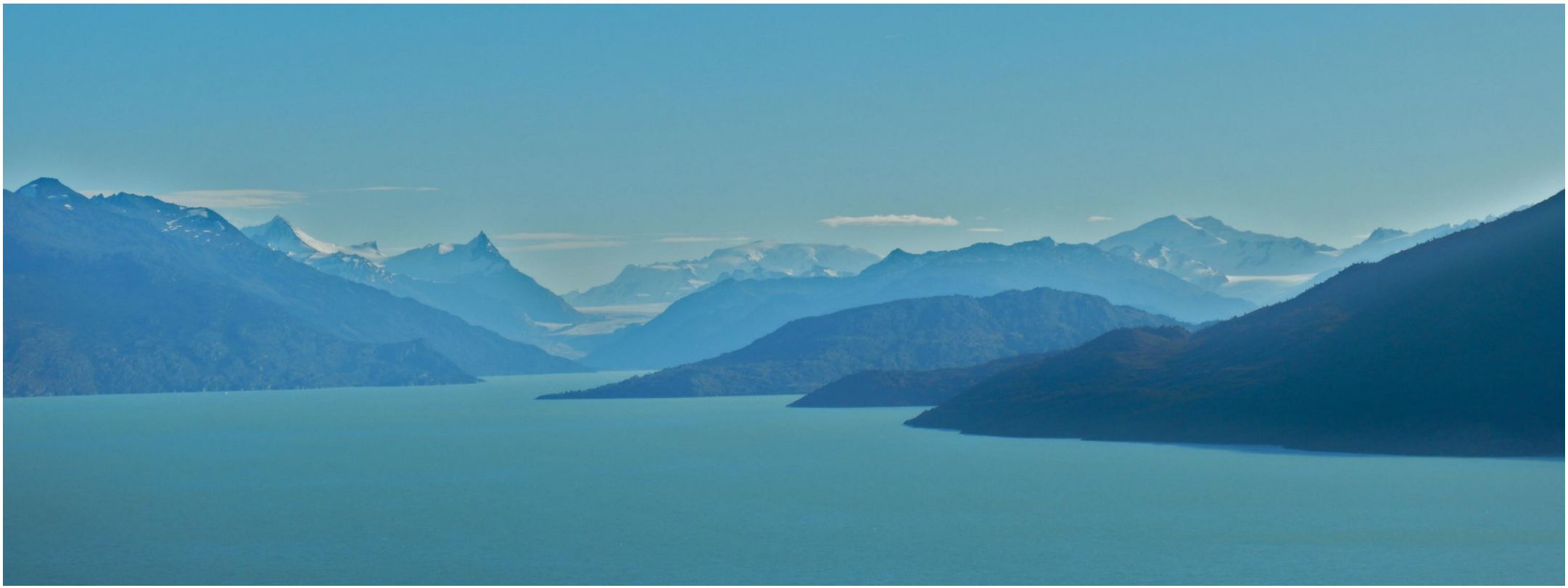


Picture 371: At beginning, descent from Cañadon los Patos on a trail.



Picture 372: Later, descent without trail in open terrain. Images: Jan

Southbound Panorama Trail to Bahia Once Hermanos: Kilometer {37H} [41.7] to Kilometer {37H} [60.8]



Picture 373: View Over Lago O’Higgins towards Campo Hielo Sur. Image: Jan Dudeck

From the trailhead at Trail {37H} [41.7/344] a 19 km long and mostly well-visible trail leads to Bahia Once Hermanos. The scenic panorama trail crosses at least 7 streams, descents and ascents a lot but touches the shore of Lago O’Higgins only once.



Picture 375: Tree skeleton.



Picture 374: Panorama trail towards Bahia Once Hermanos. The entire area was covered by forest before the arrival of settlers at the beginning of the 20th century. Images: Jan Dudeck

There are several nice spots to pitch a tent along this panorama trail but some of these spots are not next to a water source. Therefore, hikers that opt to camp at for such a dry campsite (“Camp no Water”) should refill all their water containers at a nearby stream.

A caretaker (*cuidador*) lives in a *puesto* at Bahia Once Hermanos. If he sees hikers on this private property, he needs to report this to the landlord. This should not cause a serious right-of-way conflict, but hikers may feel more comfortable to bypass the *puesto* and continue directly towards Bahia Pescado without being seen. This recommendation may change once the right-of-way is clarified and officially granted to all hiking guests.

Westbound Panorama Trail from Bahia Once Hermanos to Bahia Pescado: Kilometer {37H} [60.8] to Kilometer {37H} [69.2]



Picture 376: Descent to Bahia Pescado. Image: Jan Dudeck

A mostly well-visible trail ascents after Bahia Once Hermanos into the rocky open terrain along the southern fringe of Peninsula la Florida. The route skillfully snakes around countless obstacles in a somewhat confusing landscape. Like on the previous 19 km, the wide-open views make this route an attractive panorama trail. The Regular Route fords a river at Ford {37H} [63.6/375] and passes a gate. There are suitable protected camp sites on either side of the ford. More camp sites are near the three ponds that follow on the next two kilometers, in example in the vicinity of Camp no Water {37H} [64.4/394]. The last suitable opportunity to pitch a tent before Bahia Pescado comes at Camp {37H} [66.2/343] (Vista Fitzroy) after passing a small stream at Water {37H} [66.2/343]. From there, it's a 1:45 h walk to Bahia Pescado. The direct route to Bahia Pescado ascents the 500 m high ridge on a network a vaguely visible trails. After reaching the Pass {37H} [67.8/500] the Bahia Pescado soon comes into sight down below. The steep descent to Bahia Pescado needs frequent verifications with the navigation device as several animal tracks lead astray. When reaching the shore of Lago O'Higgins best walk 200 m south to Settler {37H-E} [4.5/264] (Bahia Pescado) to visit Nicole, Misael and their son Facundo.

Bahia Pescado: Kilometer {37H} [69.2]

To be issued.

Panorama Trail From Bahia Pescado to Bahia San Martin: Kilometer {37H} [69.2] to Kilometer {37H} [96.8]



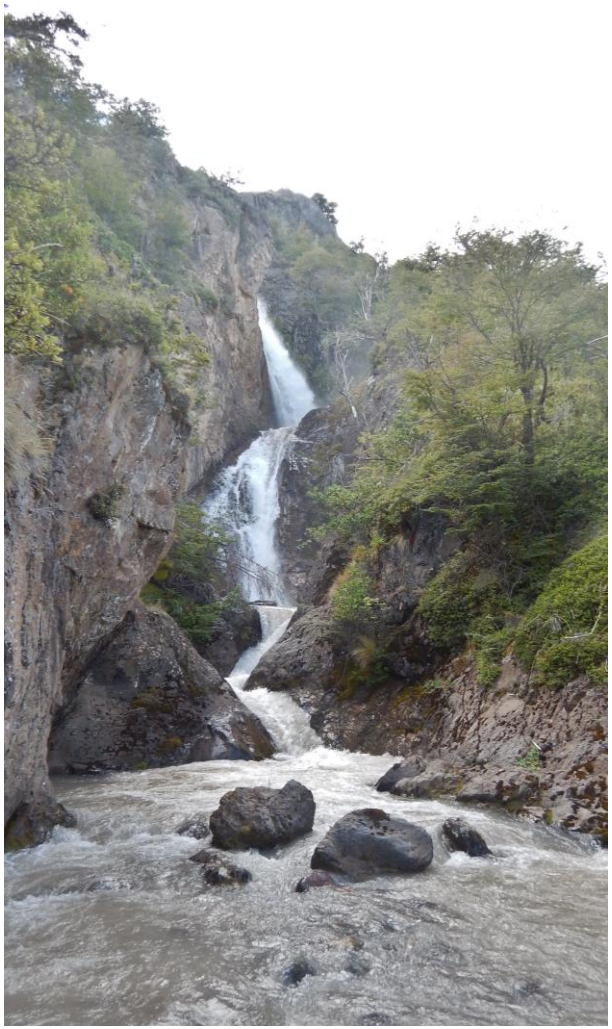
Picture 377: Panorama trail between Bahia Pescado and Puesto La Florida that ascents 250 m above the lake level. Image: Jan Dudeck

From Bahia Pescado the route continues first in open terrain without a clearly visible trail. But a well-trotten trail forms when reaching the steeper and more rocky terrain after walking about 1 kilometer cross country. The trail then climbs 250 m in altitude before descending after a 2 or 3 hour walk back down to the shore of Lago O'Higgins.



Picture 378: Beach walking on the shore of Lago O'Higgins without a clearly visible trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

This up and down continues after Bahia Pescado for 27 kilometers until reaching Bahia San Marin at Kilometer {37H} [96.8]. The rule of thumb is: Where Lago O'Higgins has a longer sandy beach, there the trail descents to the shore and disappears on the sand of the beach. Where the coastline of Lago O'Higgins is rocky and impassable, there the trail ascents up to 300 m above the lake level to bypass the rocky shore higher up inland.



Picture 380: Ford in between waterfalls.



Picture 379: Panorama trail between Puesto La Florida and Bahia Aro. Image: Jan Dudeck.

Care must be taken when crossing Ford {37H} [79.1/520] (Cascada). This river ford is in between cascades. The ford may become dangerous in heavy rain or during snow melt. Other demanding river crossings are Ford {37H} [90.0/259] (Rio Aro) and Ford {37H} [96.8/255] (Rio San Martin). We crossed both rivers just at the river mouth where the river flows into Lago O'Higgins. The flow may increase to a dangerous level after heavy rain, during snow melt or in the late afternoon on sunny days when glacier melting reaches a daily maximum.

The descent from Pass {37H} [Distance/Elevation] to Ford {37H} [90.0/259] (Rio Aro) requires in good parts cross country walking in open terrain. Several trails appear to provide a better connection, but these animal tracks don't lead down to a suitable river ford. Therefore, best follow the suggested cross-country track RH-CC-I {37H} [45.9/88.4+1.2].

Two only occasionally used outposts are passed on the route between Bahia Pescado and Bahia San Martin. A first one at La Florida where hikers may collect some fruits and a second at Bahia Aro where Marco Lancaster often watches over his sheep and other lifestock.

While ascending and descending, several smaller streams are crossed that provide refreshingly cool drinking water. Hikers that search a flat spot for a tent will occasionally find a somewhat wind protected places high above the lake but water must often be carried from the last stream. Other suitable camp sites are at the shore of Lago O'Higgins. There is even a refuge at Bahia Aro, that offers shelter in poor weather.



Picture 381: View back to Bahia San Martin. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 382: Well-maintained trail in valley of Rio San Martin. Image: Jan D.

Ascent to Lago Verde: Kilometer {37H} [96.8] to Kilometer {37H} [104.7]

After fording Rio San Martin the route continues for about 500 m cross country on flat terrain. When reaching the ascent a well maintained trail enters the forest. The trail gradually climbs 300 m on the following 7 km until reaching Laguna Verde. At the Kilometer {37H} [103.0] hikers can opt between the slightly longer regular route (not fully verified yet) and the somewhat overgrown shortcut OH-TL&CC-V {37H-H} [0.0+1.8] that connects directly to Laguna Verde.

The trail keeps a good distance to Rio San Marting but crosses several streams that provide drinking water. Also spots for a tent can be found along the route. But continuing to Laguna Verde and pitching the tent next to the lake is probably the more scenic choice.

Ascent to Portezuelo el Rose: Kilometer {37H} [104.7] to Kilometer {37H} [111.8]

The Regular Route first backtracks for about 3 km along the shore of Laguna Verde. The scenic landscape makes this repeat of a previously walk trail worthwhile. At crossing X {37H} [26.6/546] a vaguely visible trail leaves the shore and climbing 400 m towards Portezuelo el Rose. About two kilometers before the actual pass the trail levels off and traverses a plateau with patches of forest and mountain pastures.

There are at least four smaller streams to refill water bottles and suitable camp sites can be found at the plateau before the actual pass.

Descent to Lago O’Higgins: Kilometer {37H} [111.8] to Kilometer {37H} [115.0]

The 700 m descent from the Portezuelo el Rose to the shore of Lago O’Higgins is substantially steeper and the occasionally loose gravel requires more attention while walking. A few hundred meters before reaching the Lago O’Higgins the trail branches into a confusing network of animal tracks in overgrown terrain.

There are no suitable camp sites between the pass and the shore of Lago O’Higgins.

Return to Puerto Bahmondes: Kilometer {37H} [115.0] to Kilometer {37H} [124.9]

The final 10 km are generally easy walking. The route first follows for about 1.5 km the beach without a clearly visible trail. After crossing a small stream hikers must start to ascent on a labyrinth of animal tracks in a semi-open landscape. Eventually a clearly visible trail forms that heads in some distance to Lago O'Higgins towards Puerto Bahmondes. The trail mostly ascents or descents but the multiple climbs a shorter and less tiresome.

When reaching Puerto Bahmondes hikers may either try to hitch-hike back to Villa O'Higgins or walk the 7.6 kilometer on the primary road to the village. Most hikers will probably return to Villa O'Higgins to resupply and to arrange a boat transfer to Candelario Mansilla.

Hikers that wish to camp on the trail before resupplying in Villa O'Higgins will find suitable spots in the vicinity of the trail before Puerto Bahmondes. Camping next to primary road from Puerto Bahmondes to Villa O'Higgins would be less attractive.

Ferry from Puerto Bahmondes to Candelario Mansilla: Kilometer {37H} [124.9] to Kilometer {37H} [175.1]

The 50 kilometer ferry ride from Puerto Bahmondes to Candelario Mansilla is best organized in Villa O'Higgins. This can be done either before or after hiking the Peninsula la Florida.

The high demand combined with a limited supply of seats on the small ferries makes early booking beneficial. But the often strong wind changes such plans frequently. Hikers should therefore be prepared to spend a few days in Villa O'Higgins before crossing Lago O'Higgins and continuing with GPT38 from Candelario Mansilla.

Booking the ferry ride after returning from Peninsula la Florida makes the hike on Peninsula la Florida more relaxing but may result in longer waiting times, especially during peak season in January and February.

2.5.48.13.3 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.48.14 Optional Routes

Option 1 (Bahia Pescado Lake Crossing): This service is not available yet as the settlers at Bahia Pescado do not have a motorboat yet. But the settlers wish to provide this service in the future.

2.5.48.15 Investigations and Explorations

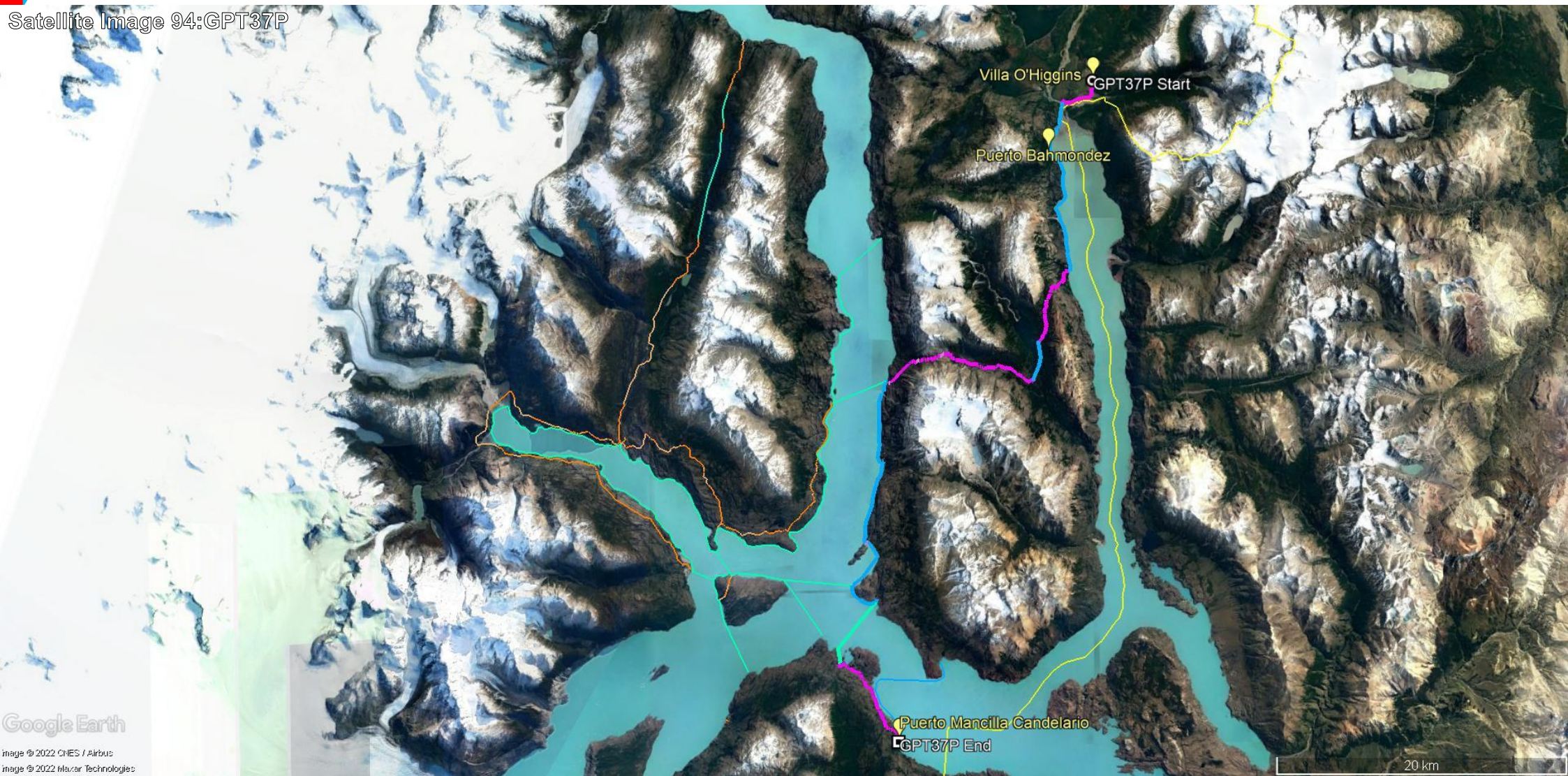
2.5.48.16 Links to other Resources

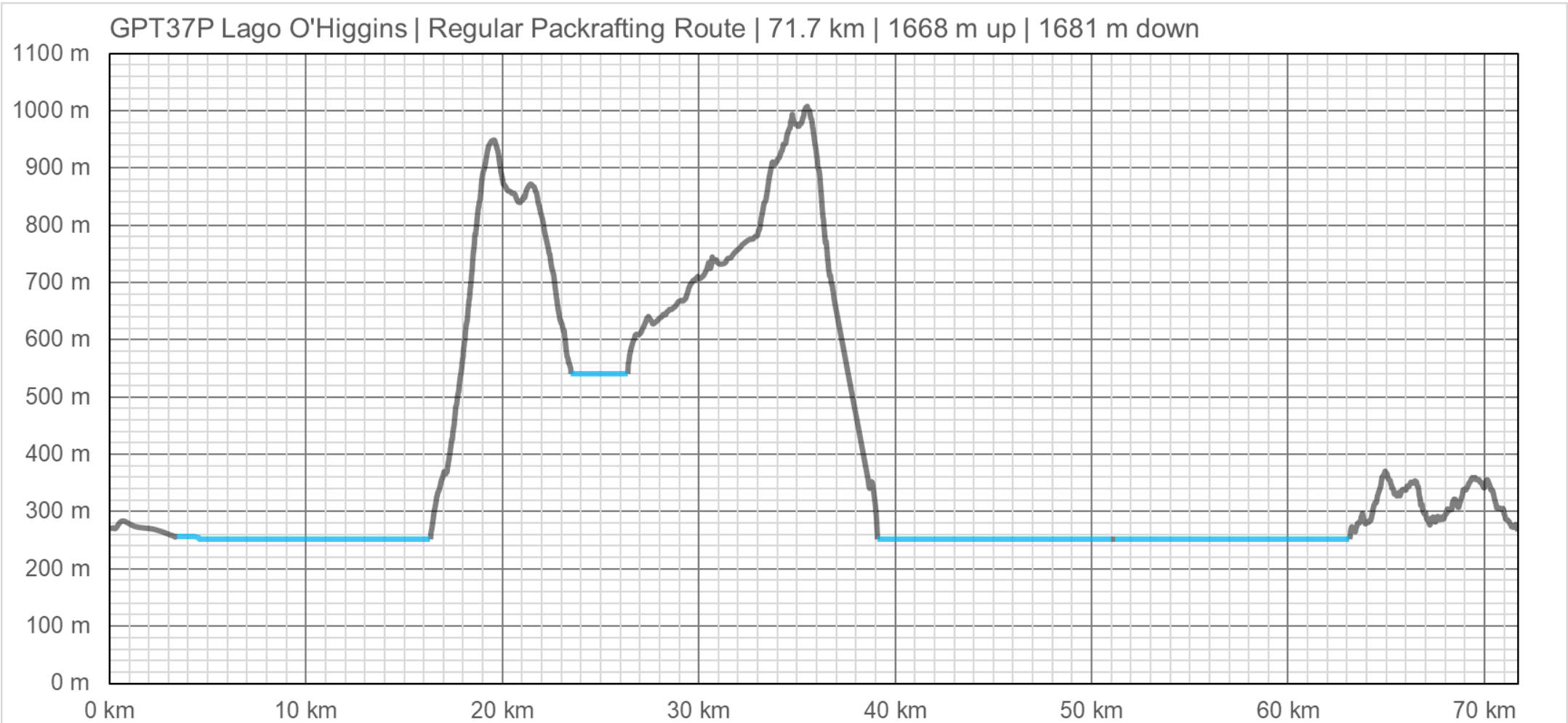
2.5.49 GPT37P: Lago O'Higgins

GPT37P: Lago O'Higgins				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1		Total	**-**	**-**	**71.7 km**	**23 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	19.5 km	27.3%
Start	Villa O'Higgins		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	1.6 km	2.2%
Finish	Candelario Mancillo		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	3.3 km	4.6%
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	7.6 km	10.6%
Traversable	Jan - Apr (Maybe: Nov, Dec, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT37H, GPT38		Investigation (I)	-	-	(1.5 km)	(2.1%)
Options	212 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(5.5 km)	(7.6%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**39.6 km**	**55.2%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		2.5 km	3.5%
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		37.1 km	51.8%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: Demanding lake crossing with difficult to predict wind						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Mountain Pastures, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 117: GPT37P Section Summary

Satellite Image 94:GPT37P





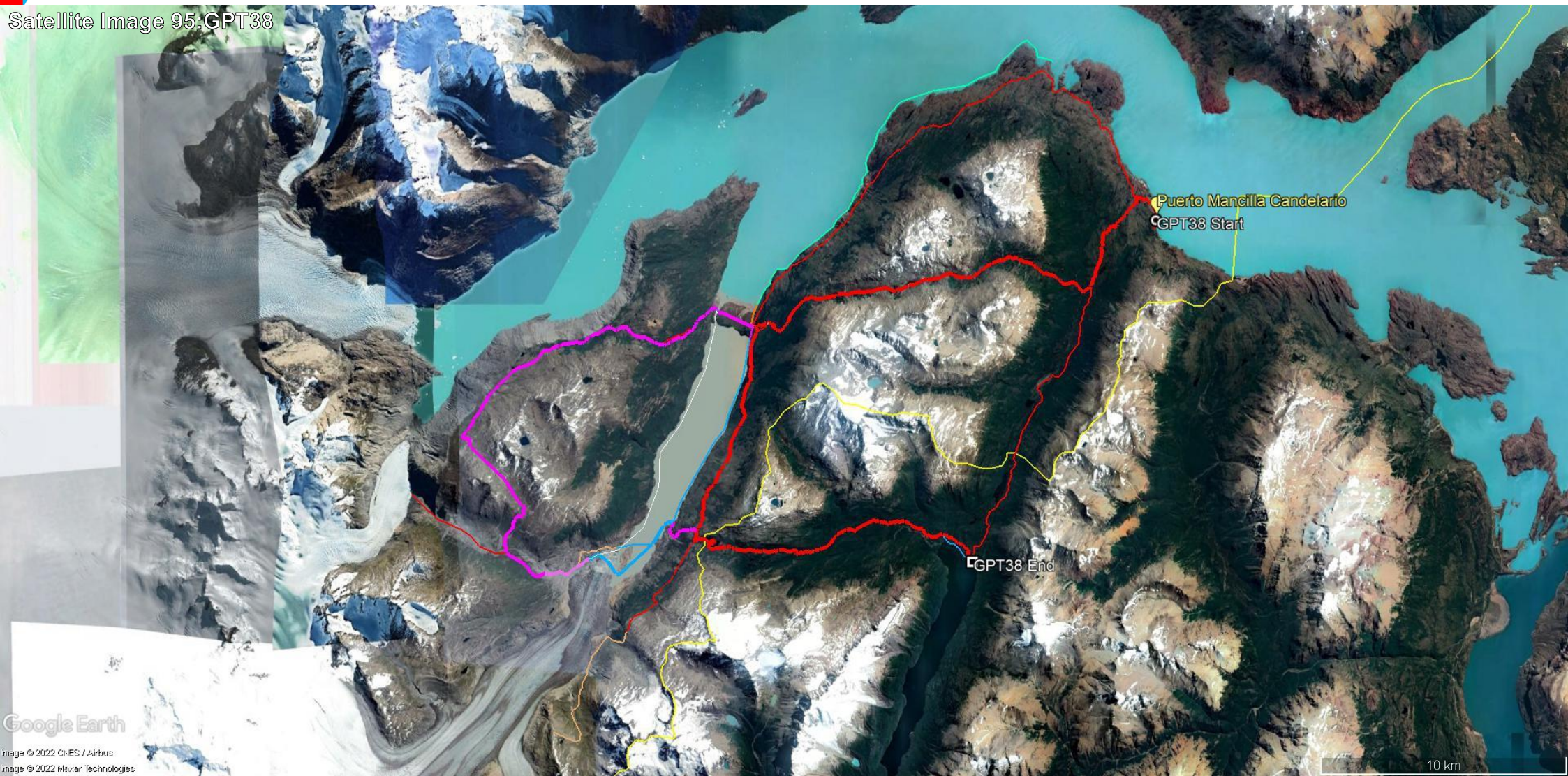
Elevation Profile 76: GPT37P Regular Packrafting Route

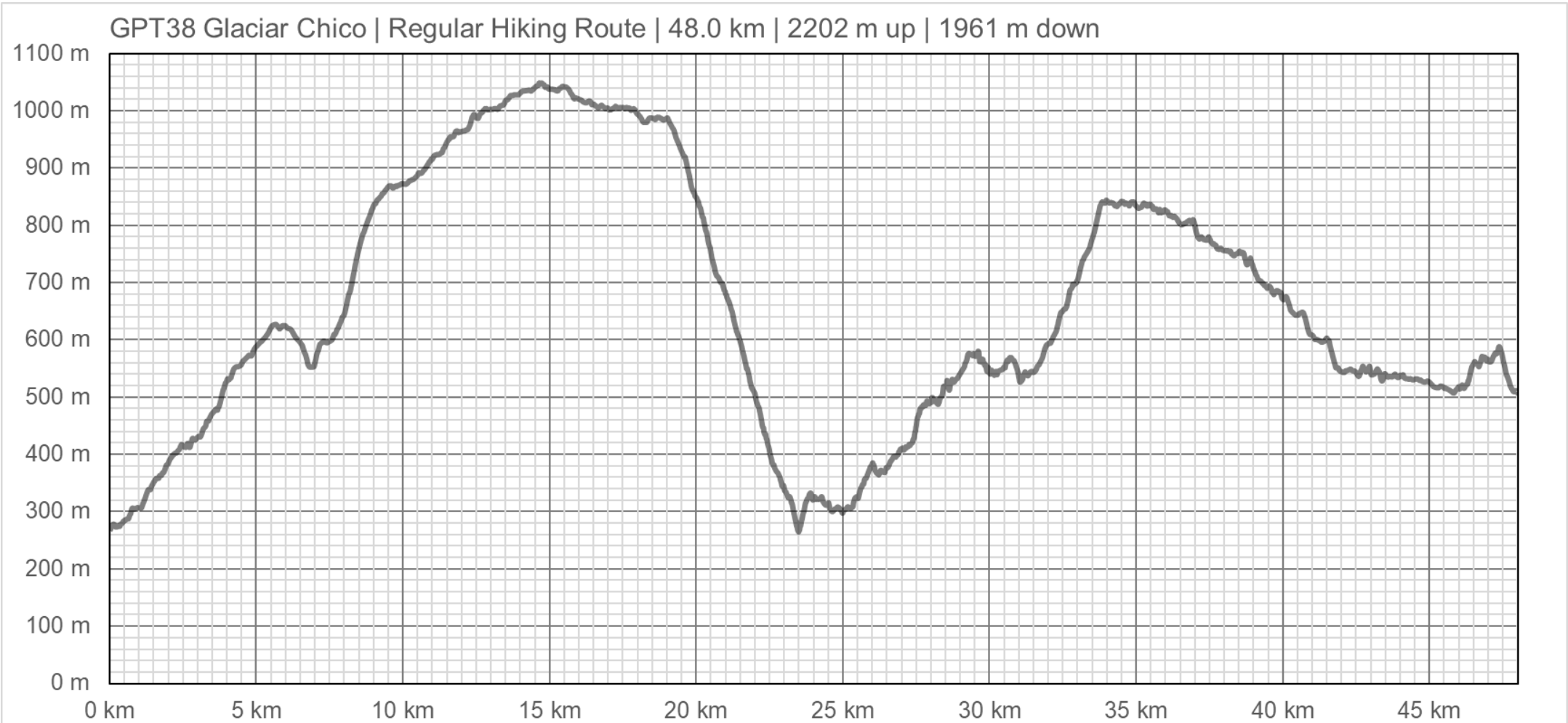
2.5.50 GPT38: Glaciar Chico

GPT38: Glaciar Chico				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1		Total	**48.0 km**	**16 h**	**71.3 km**	**25 h**
Region	Chile & Argentina: Aysén (XI) & Rio Negro		Trails (TL)	41.5 km	86.4%	42.0 km	59.0%
Start	Candelario Mancillo		Minor Roads (MR)	6.5 km	13.6%	6.5 km	9.2%
Finish	Lago El Desierto (Gendarmeria)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	17.8 km	25.0%
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT37H, GPT37P, GPT39		Investigation (I)	-	-	(2.0 km)	(2.8%)
Options	135 km (6 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**4.9 km**	**6.8%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		0.1 km	0.1%
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		4.8 km	6.7%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Glaciers, Mountain Pastures, Settlers, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Demanding Navigation						

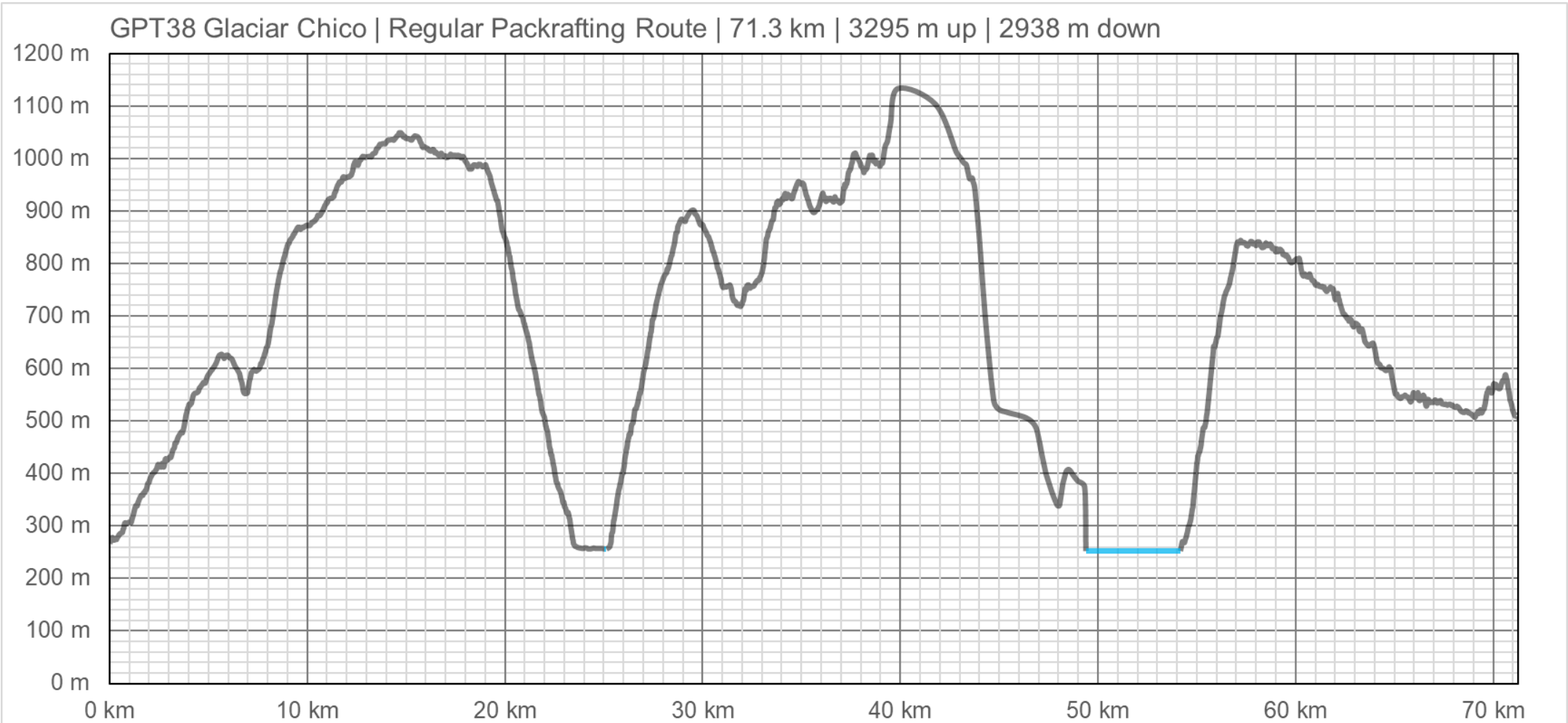
Table 118: GPT38 Section Summary

Satellite Image 95:GPT38





Elevation Profile 77: GPT38 Regular Hiking Route



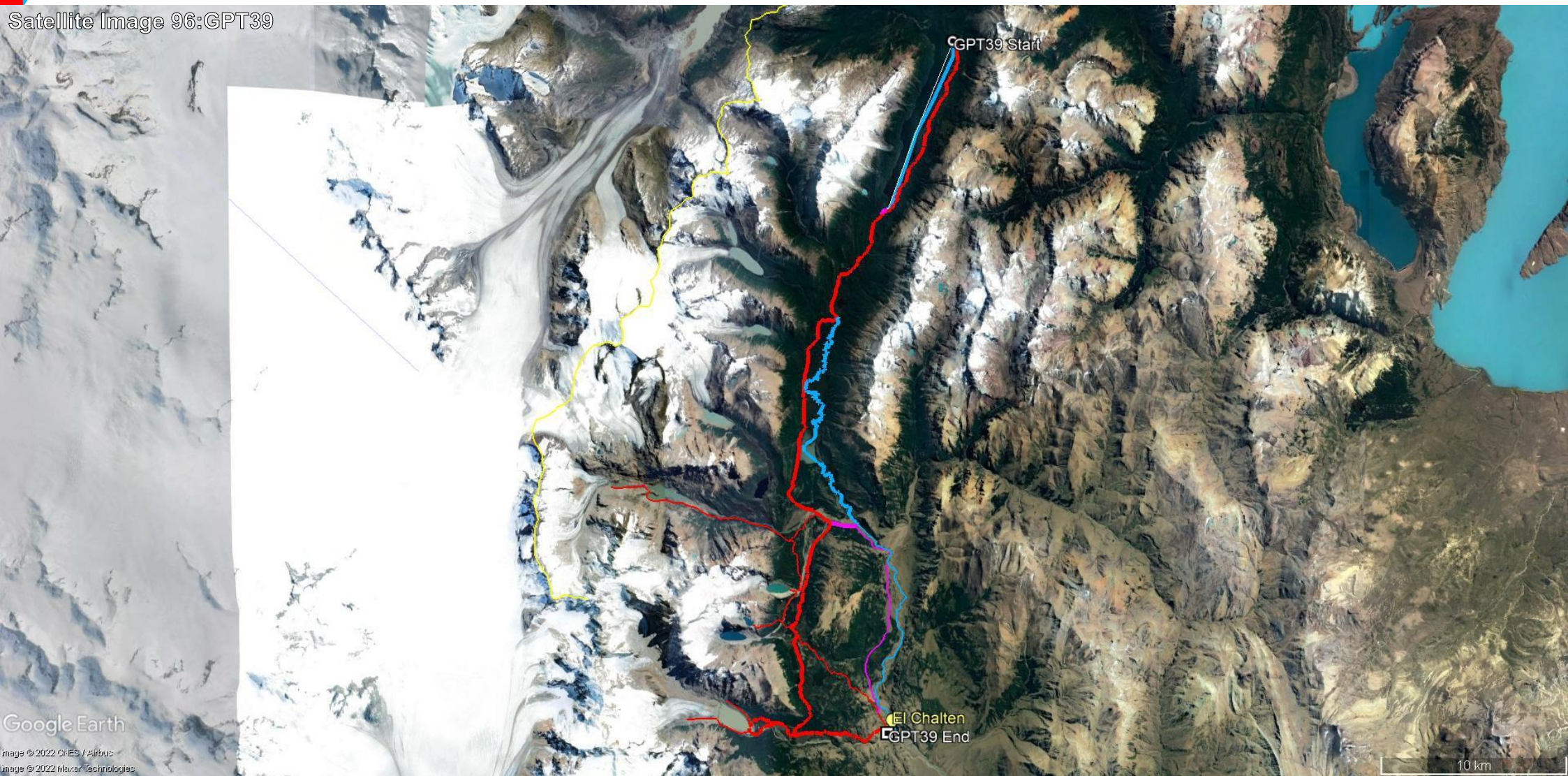
Elevation Profile 78: GPT38 Regular Packrafting Route

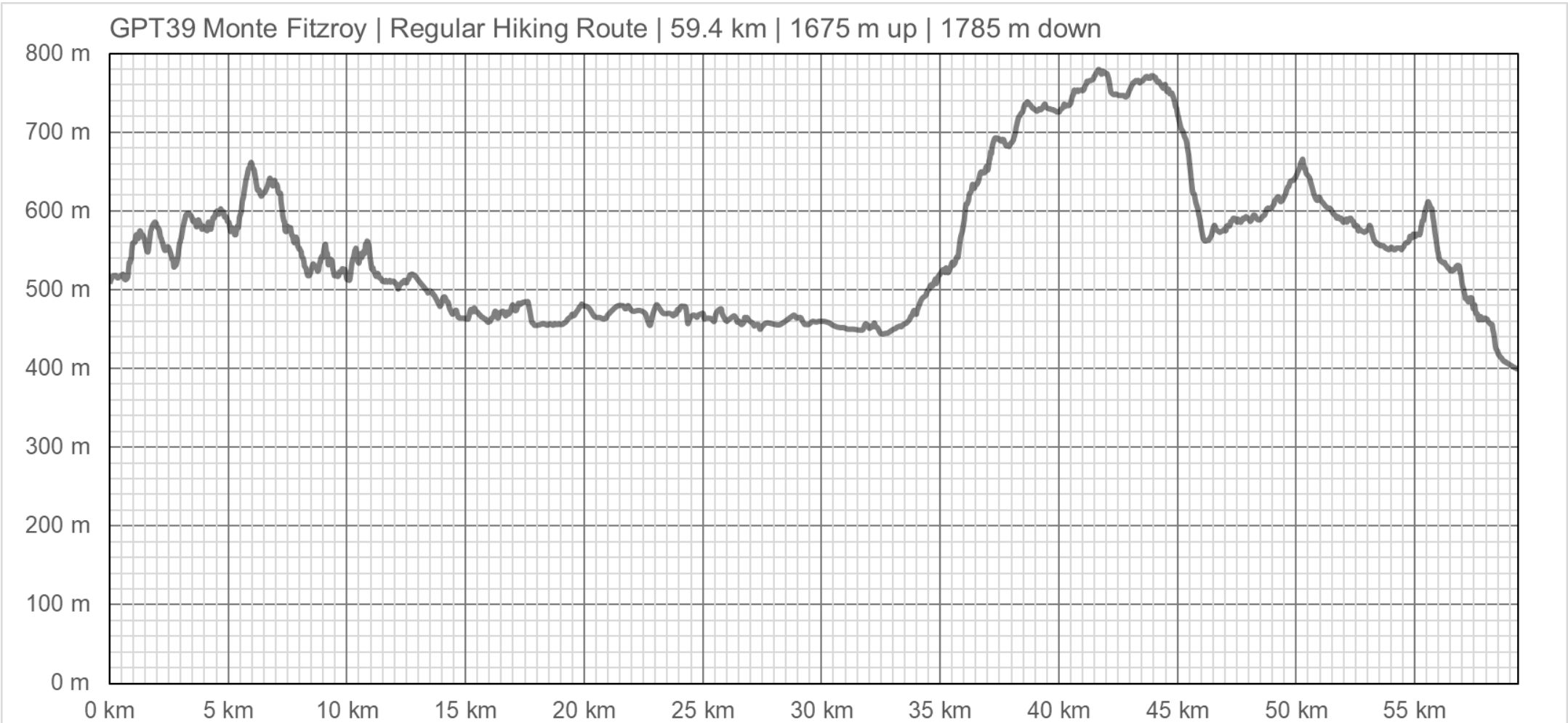
Make sure to collect your exit stamp (or entry stamp if going northbound) at the Chilean border control post immediately after your arrival in Candelario Mancilla even if you plan to start walking the next day. 6.5 km after Candelario Mancilla an unimpressive trail branches off the gravel road. This is the Regular Route that returns to the minor road just at the Argentine border control post where everybody must collect his entry stamp (or exit stamp if walking northbound). When talking with the border guards on either side it is the best not to disclose the details of your planned route but just confirm that you walk from Chile to Argentina if going southbound (or from Argentina to Chile if going northbound).

2.5.51 GPT39: Monte Fitz Roy

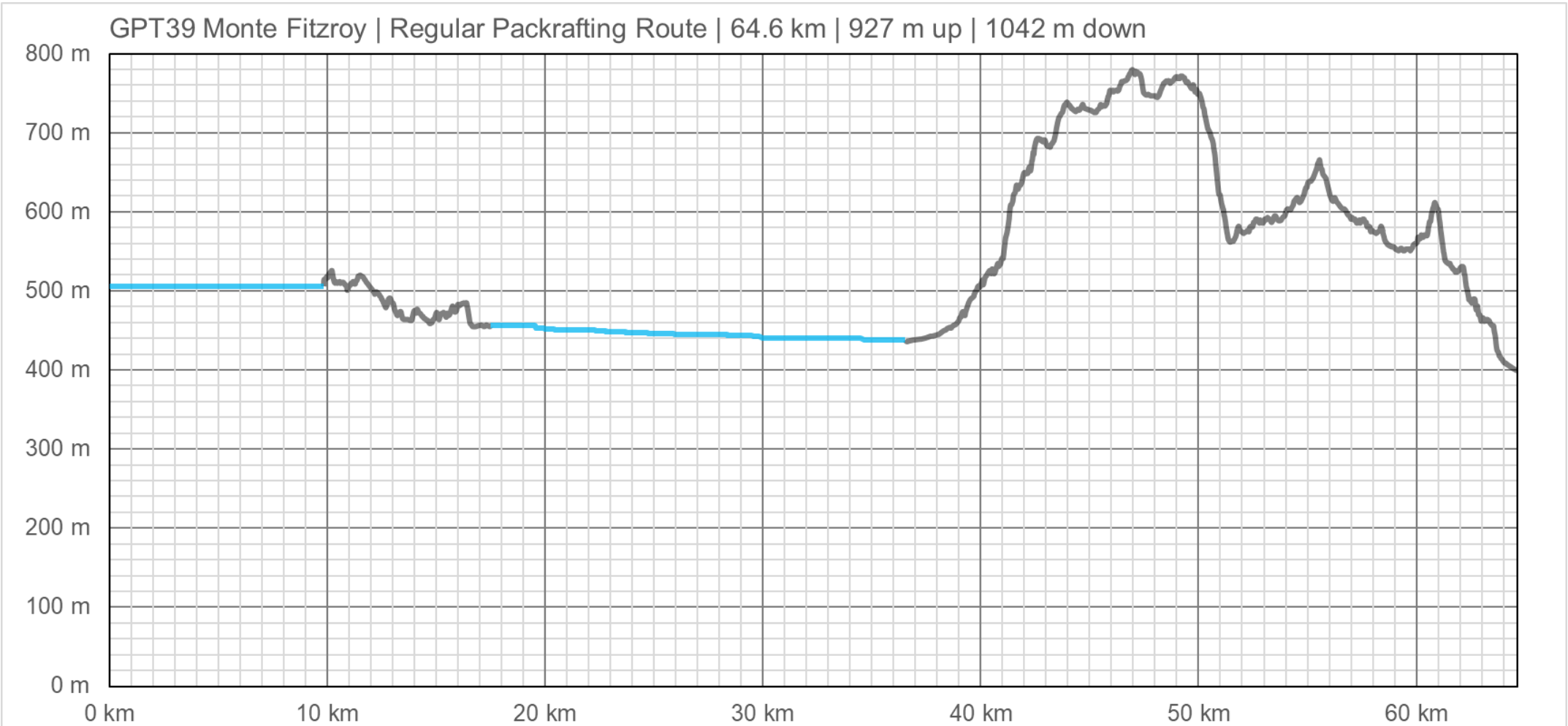
GPT39: Monte Fitzroy				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1		Total	**59.4 km**	**17 h**	**64.6 km**	**17 h**
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro		Trails (TL)	37.7 km	63.5%	26.1 km	40.4%
Start	Lago El Desierto (Gendarmeria)		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	El Chalten		Primary Roads (PR)	21.7 km	36.5%	9.4 km	14.6%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.2 km	0.3%
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Maybe: Sep, Oct, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT37H, GPT39, GPT40, GPT41		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	82 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**28.9 km**	**44.7%**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		18.2 km	28.1%
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		10.7 km	16.5%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Glaciers, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Road Walking, Partly Overrun						
Challenges	-						

Table 119: GPT39 Section Summary


Satellite Image 96:GPT39
GPT39 Start
El Chalten
GPT39 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



Elevation Profile 79: GPT39 Regular Hiking Route



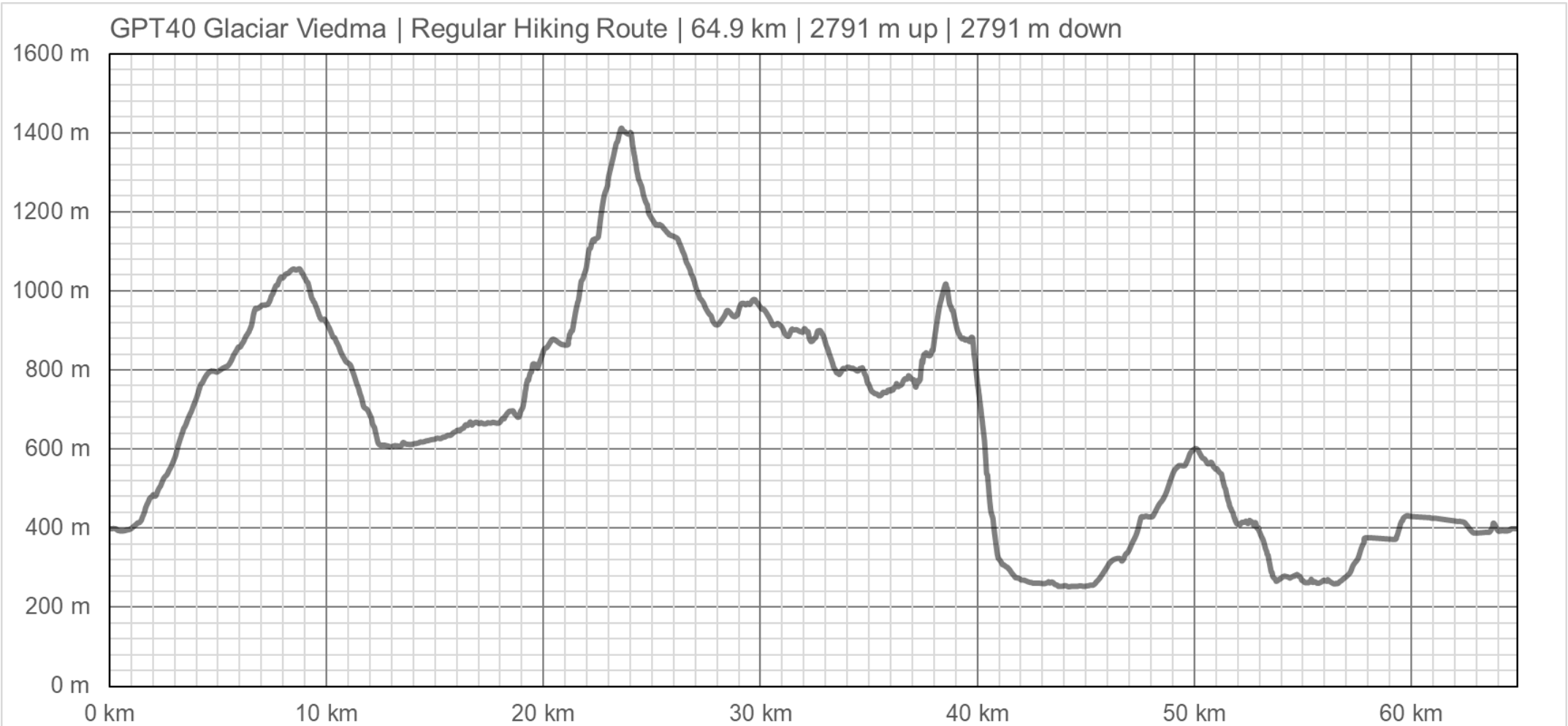
Elevation Profile 80: GPT39 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.52 GPT40: Glaciar Viedma

GPT40: Glaciar Viedma				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	I: Campo de Hielo Sur 1		Total	**64.9 km**	**22 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro		Trails (TL)	43.8 km	67.4%	-	-
Start	El Chalten		Minor Roads (MR)	1.5 km	2.3%	-	-
Finish	El Chalten		Primary Roads (PR)	3.4 km	5.2%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	16.2 km	25.0%	-	-
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT37H, GPT39, GPT41		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Circuit						
Character	Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable						

Table 120: GPT40 Section Summary


Satellite Image 97:GPT40
El Chalten
GPT40 Start
GPT40 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
9 km



Elevation Profile 81: GPT40 Regular Route

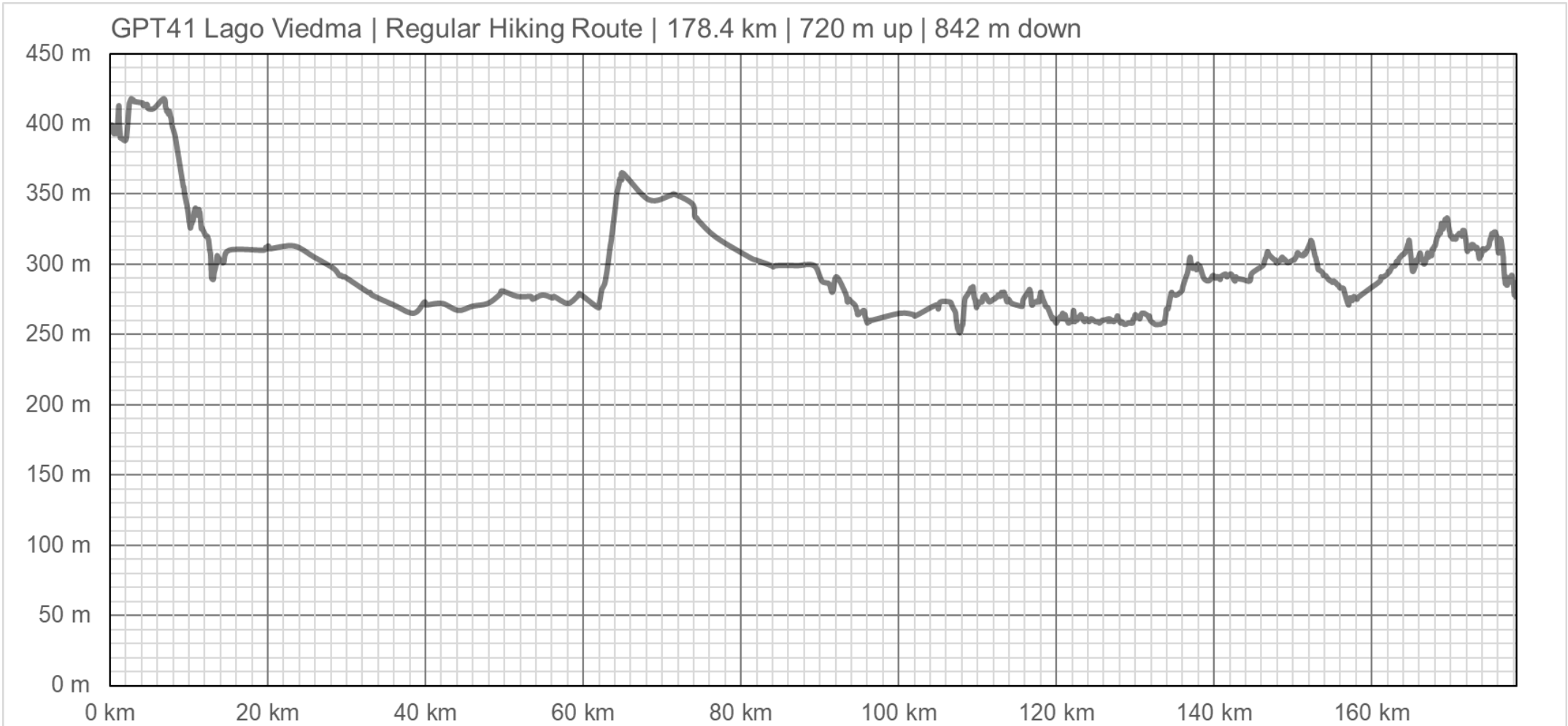
2.5.53 GPT41: Lago Viedma

GPT41: Lago Viedma					Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2		Total		**178.4 km**	**38 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro		Trails (TL)		-	-	-	-
Start	El Chalten		Minor Roads (MR)		70.4 km	39.4%	-	-
Finish	Lago Viedma (Estancia Helsingfors)		Primary Roads (PR)		108.0 km	60.6%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)		-	-	-	-
Traversable	(Maybe: Sep - May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)		-	-	-	-
Packraft	Questionable		Ferry (FY)		-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT37H, GPT39, GPT40, GPT42		Investigation (I)		-	-	-	-
Options	44 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)		-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting			Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-			River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	-			Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-			Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Questionable if packrafting of Lago Viedma is advisable / ↓ Southbound seams preferable							
Character	Semi-Desert, Unpeopled Areas, Road Walking							
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Resupply Distance							

Table 121: GPT41 Section Summary

Satellite Image 98:GPT41



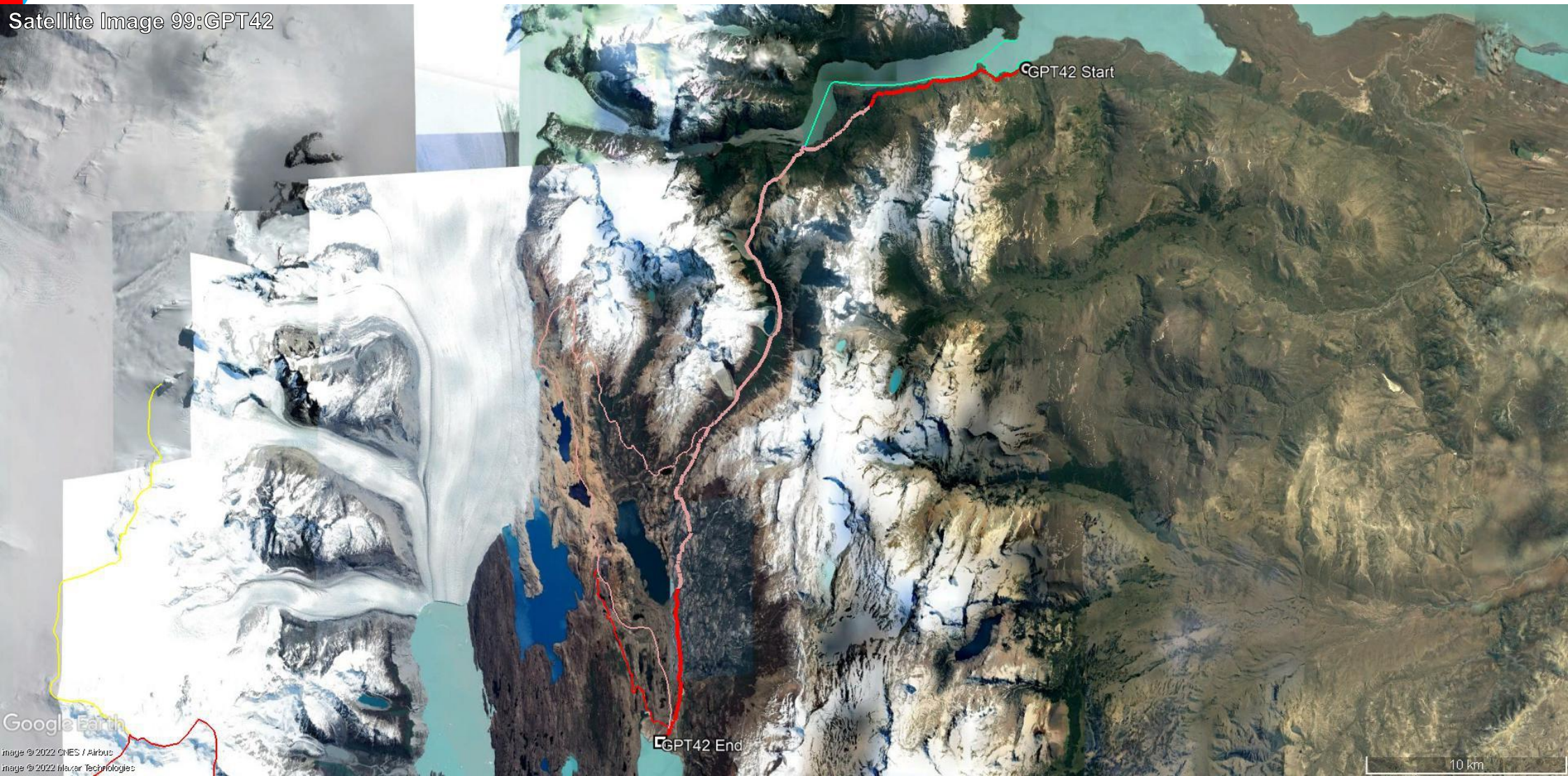


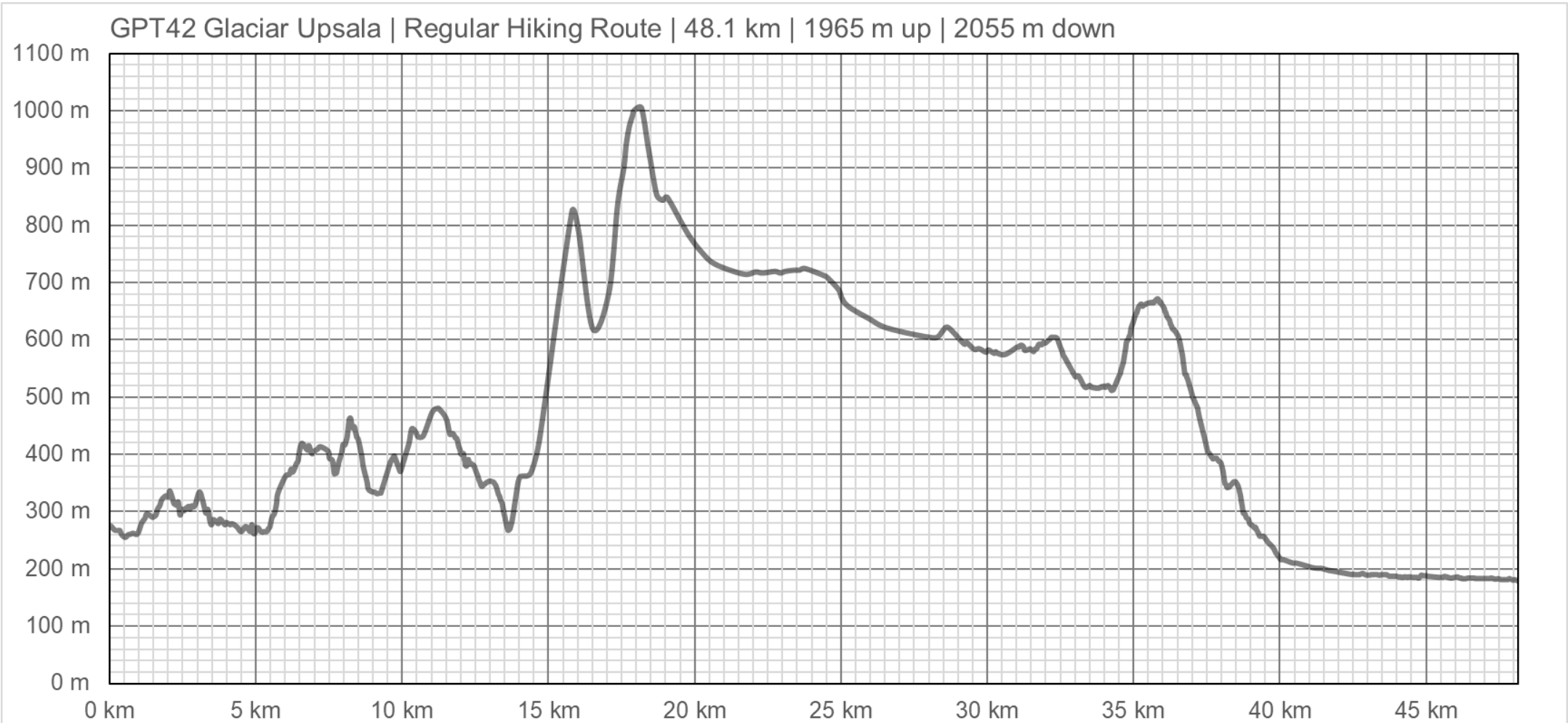
Elevation Profile 82: GPT41 Regular Route

2.5.54 GPT42: Glaciar Upsala

GPT42: Glaciar Upsala				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2		Total	**48.1 km**	**17 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro		Trails (TL)	18.7 km	38.7%	-	-
Start	Lago Viedma (Estancia Helsingfors)		Minor Roads (MR)	4.6 km	9.5%	-	-
Finish	Lago Argentino (Estancia Cristina)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	24.9 km	51.8%	-	-
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT41, GPT43		Investigation (I)	(30.7 km)	(63.8%)	-	-
Options	69 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	5 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 122: GPT42 Section Summary


Satellite Image 99:GPT42
GPT42 Start
GPT42 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



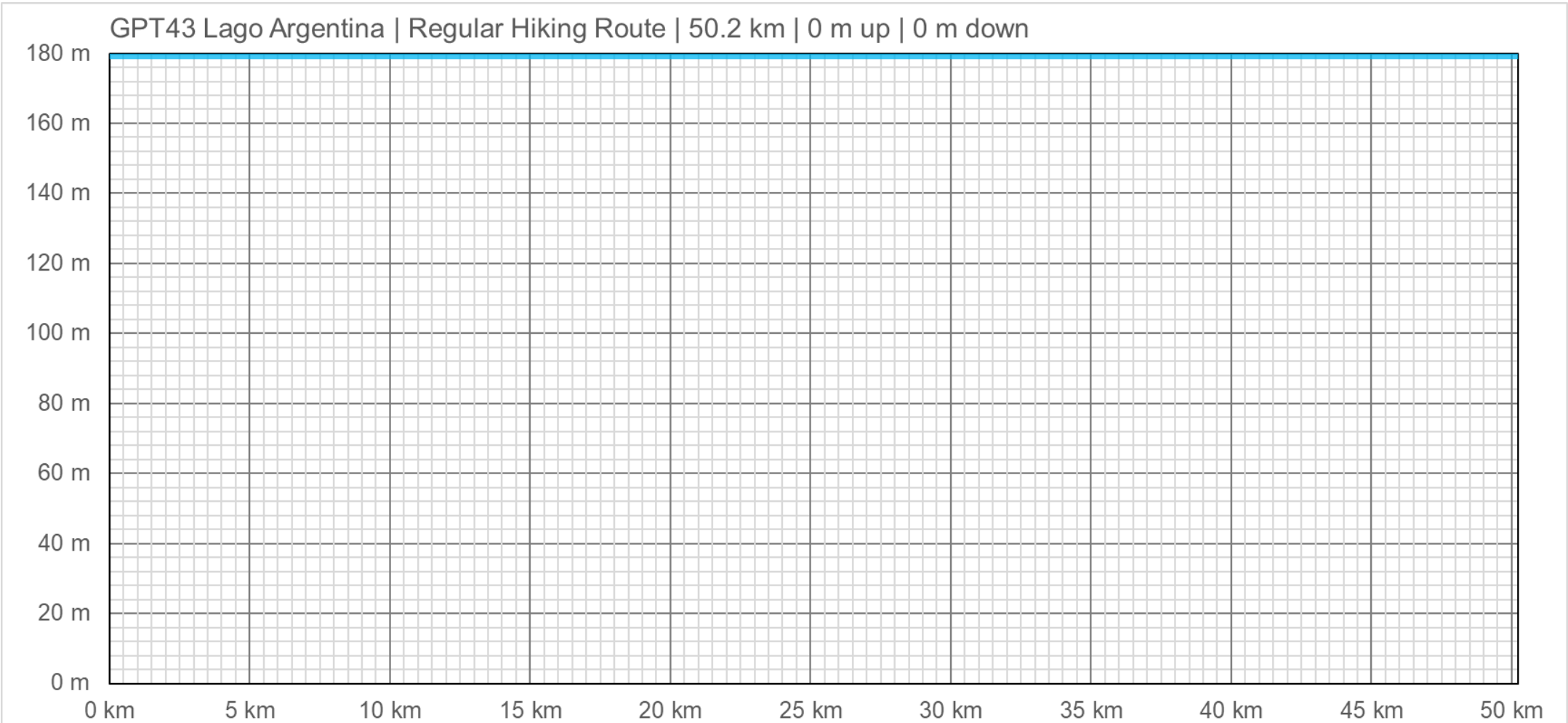
Elevation Profile 83: GPT42 Regular Route

2.5.55 GPT43: Lago Argentina

GPT43: Lago Argentina				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2		Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Lago Argentino (Estancia Cristina)		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Lago Argentino (Puerto Banderas)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Ferry Only		Ferry (FY)	(50.2 km)	(100.0%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT42, GPT44		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	-	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	-						
Challenges	-						

Table 123: GPT43 Section Summary


Satellite Image 100:GPT43
GPT43 Start
GPT43 End
Puerto Bandera
Google Earth
10 km



Elevation Profile 84: GPT43 Regular Route

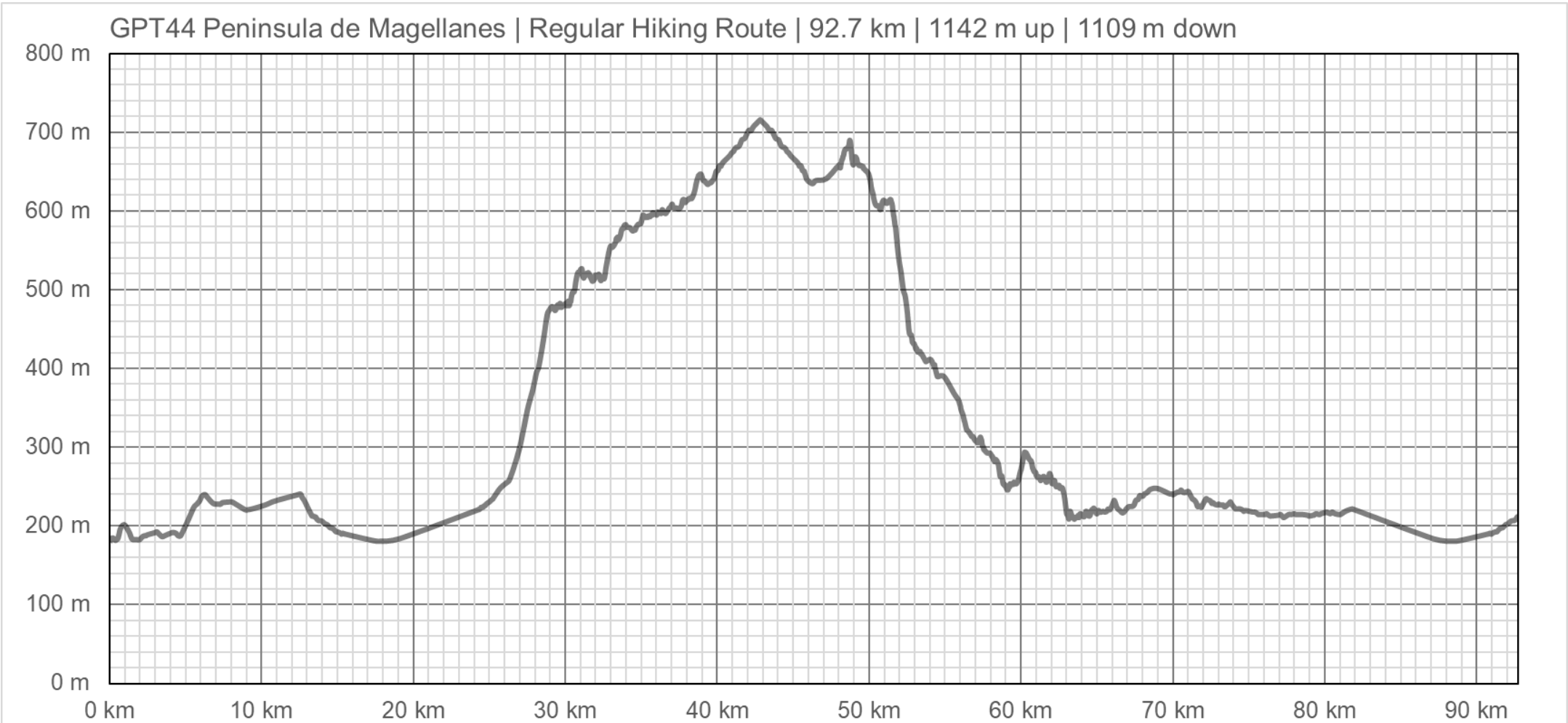
2.5.56 GPT44: Peninsula Perito Moreno

GPT44: Peninsula de Magellanes				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2		Total	**92.7 km**	**24 h**	**92.7 km**	**24 h**
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro		Trails (TL)	20.7 km	22.4%	20.7 km	22.4%
Start	Lago Argentino (Puerto Banderas)		Minor Roads (MR)	14.9 km	16.1%	14.9 km	16.1%
Finish	Frontera (Hito III-40)		Primary Roads (PR)	13.5 km	14.6%	13.5 km	14.6%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	43.6 km	47.0%	43.6 km	47.0%
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT43, GPT45		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	83 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Semi-Desert, Forest, Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Mountain Pastures, Road Walking						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 124: GPT44 Section Summary

Satellite Image 101:GPT44





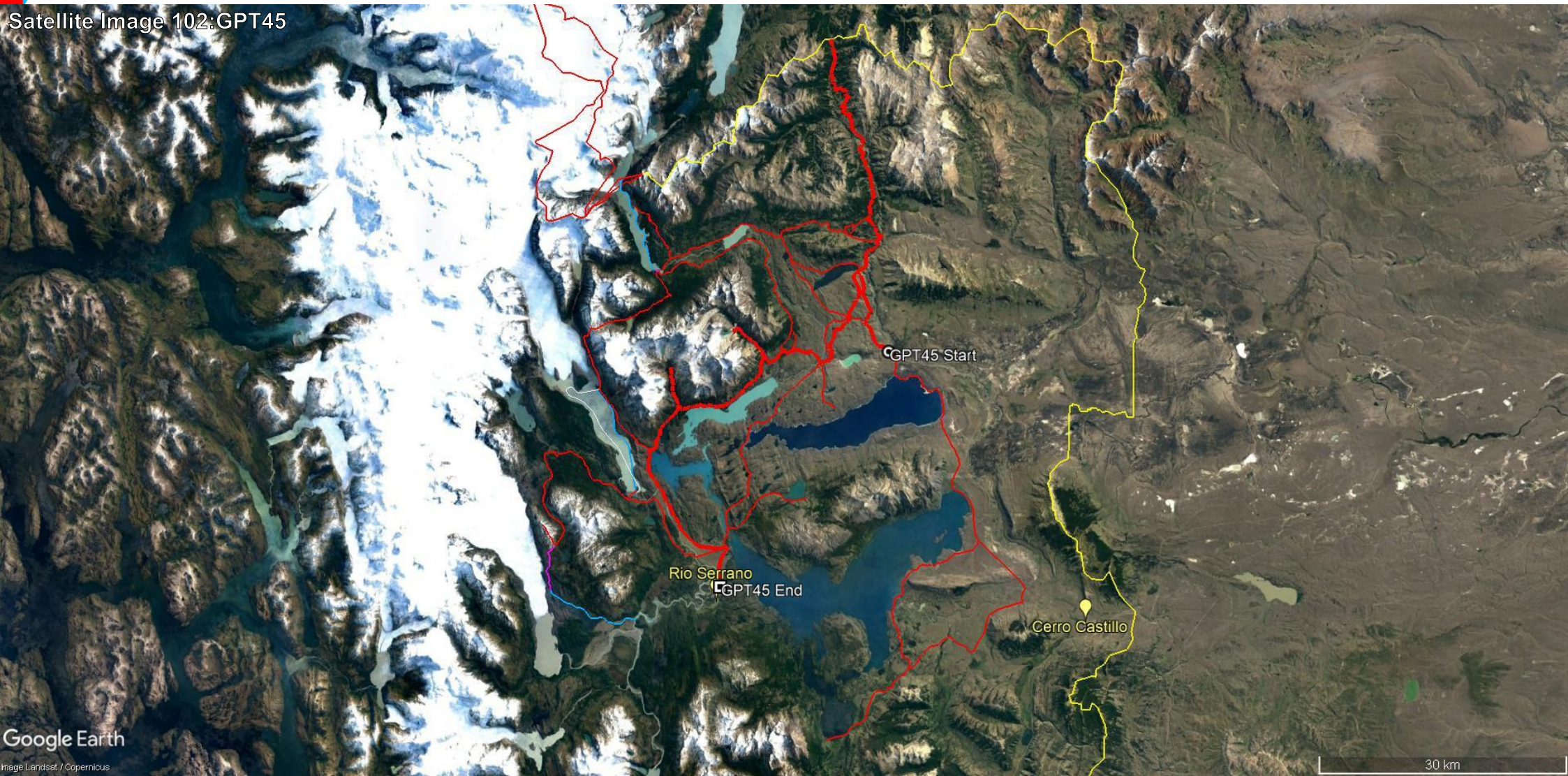
Elevation Profile 85: GPT44 Regular Route

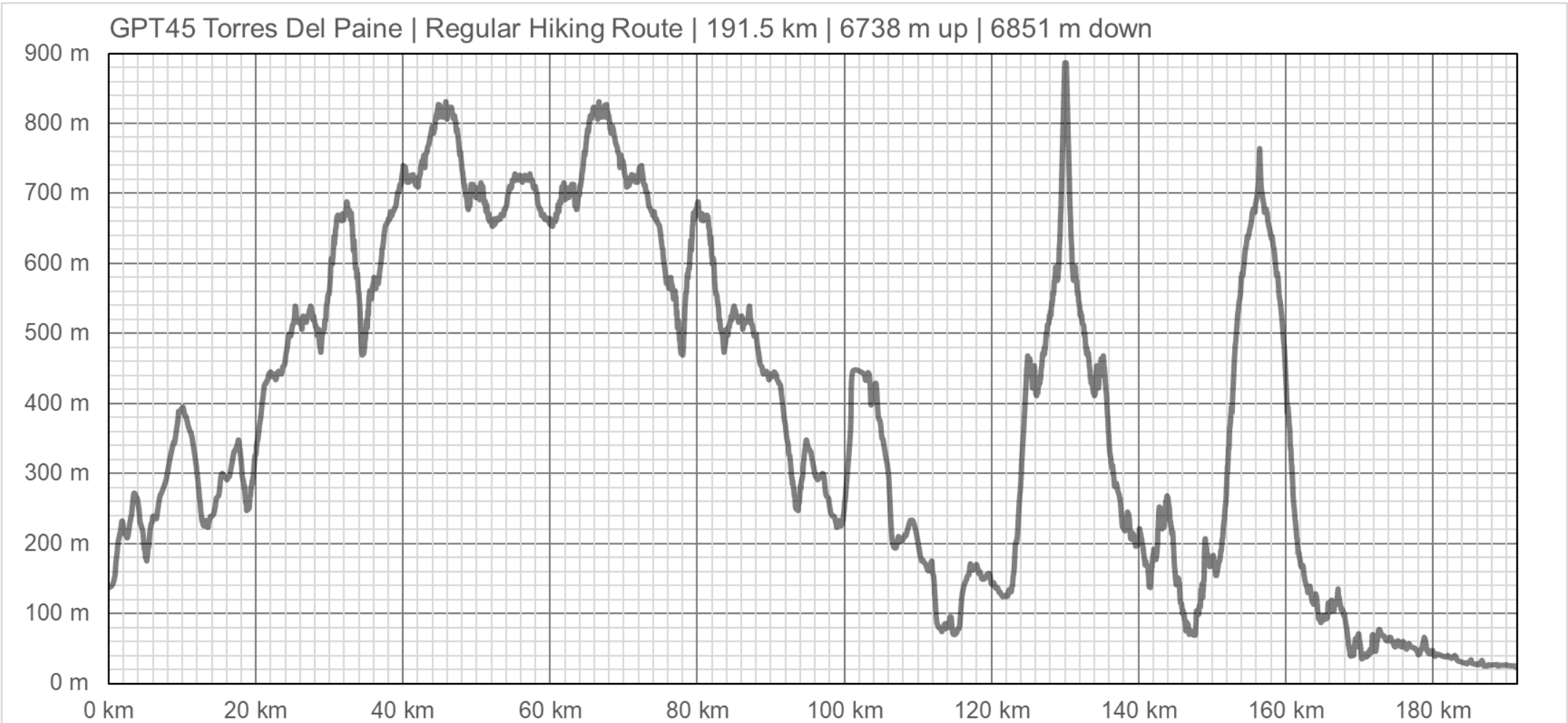
2.5.57 GPT45: Torres Del Paine

GPT45: Torres Del Paine				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2		Total	**191.5 km**	**58 h**	**191.5 km**	**58 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	67.7 km	35.3%	67.7 km	35.3%
Start	Frontera (Hito III-40)		Minor Roads (MR)	108.8 km	56.8%	108.8 km	56.8%
Finish	Rio Serano (CONAF)		Primary Roads (PR)	5.2 km	2.7%	5.2 km	2.7%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	9.9 km	5.1%	9.9 km	5.1%
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT44, GPT46		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	481 km (9 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Mountain Pastures, Road Walking, Partly Overrun						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 125: GPT45 Section Summary

Satellite Image 102:GPT45



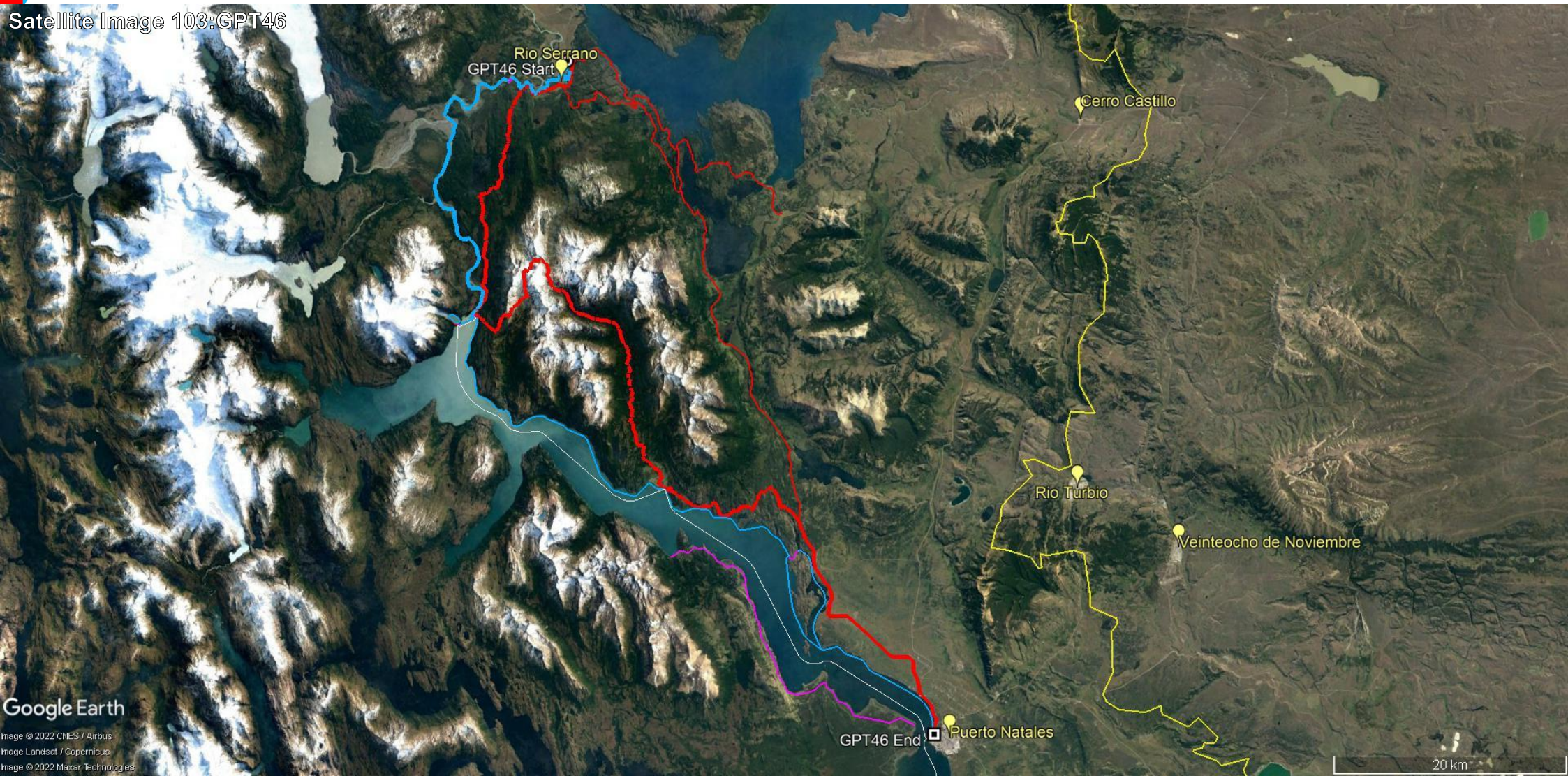


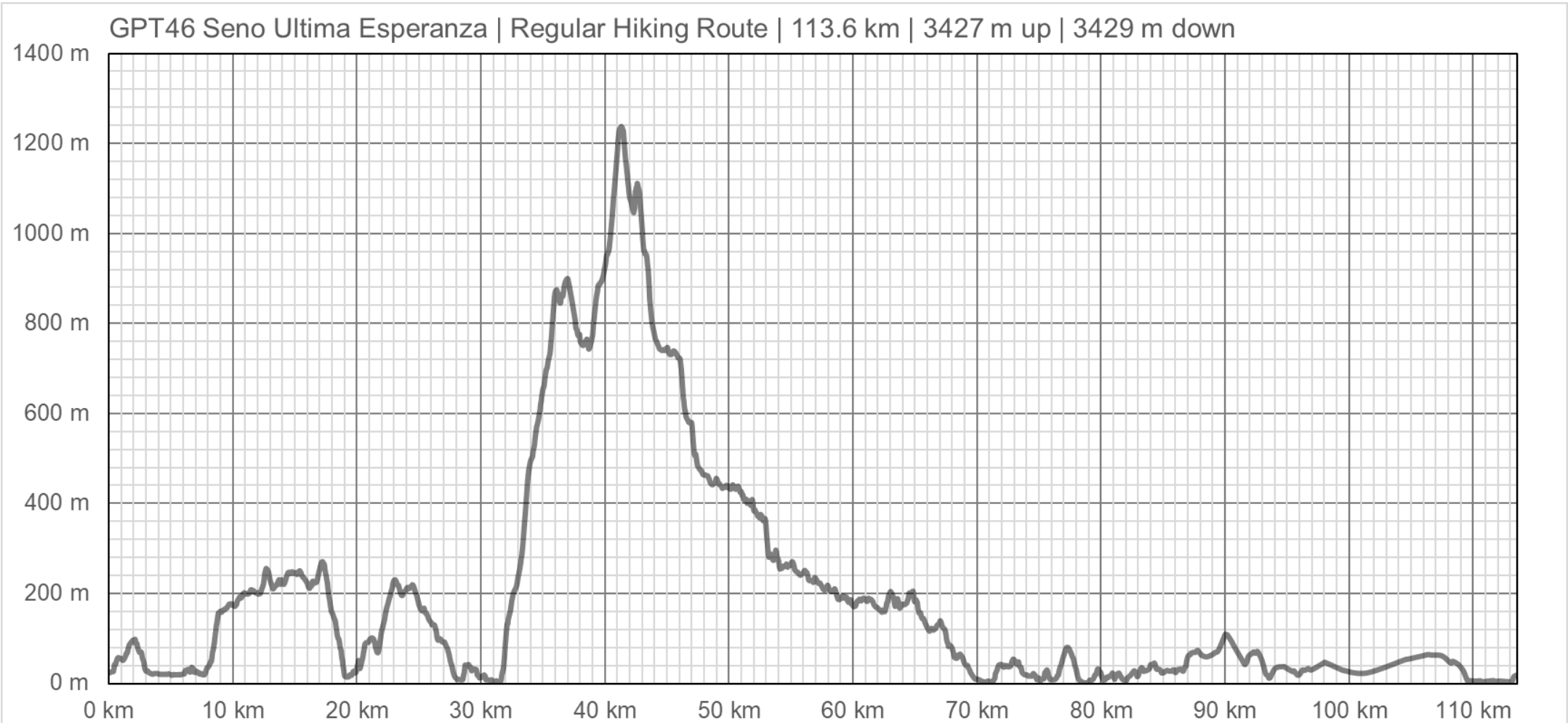
Elevation Profile 86: GPT45 Regular Route

2.5.58 GPT46: Seno Ultima Esperanza

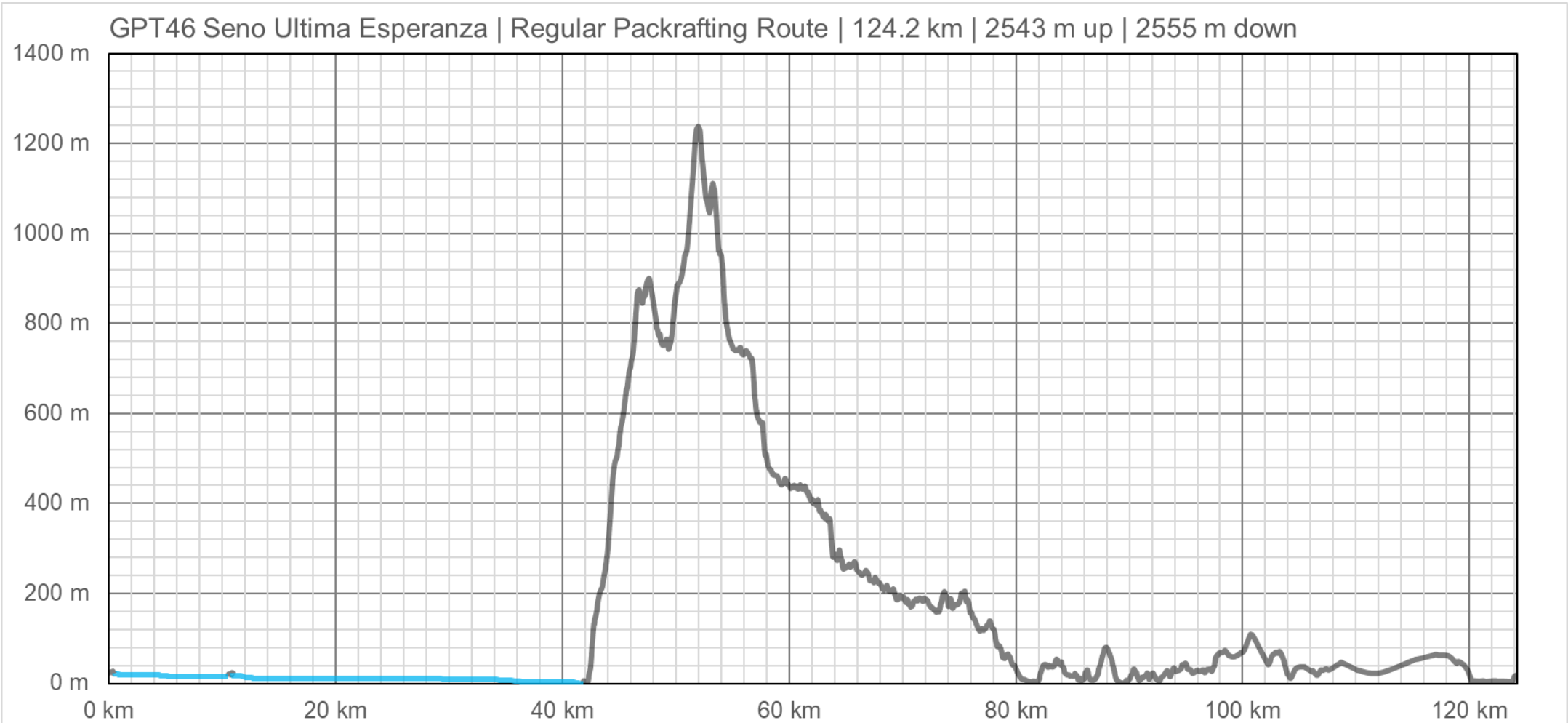
GPT46: Seno Ultima Esperanza				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	J: Campo de Hielo Sur 2		Total	**113.6 km**	**34 h**	**124.2 km**	**33 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	55.6 km	48.9%	28.3 km	22.8%
Start	Rio Serano (CONAF)		Minor Roads (MR)	41.5 km	36.6%	38.1 km	30.7%
Finish	Puerto Natales		Primary Roads (PR)	5.1 km	4.5%	5.0 km	4.0%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	11.4 km	10.0%	11.9 km	9.6%
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT45, GPT47		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	210 km (7 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**40.9 km**	**32.9%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		40.9 km	32.9%
Difficulty	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ More packraft use, ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Forest, Alpine Terrain, Sea Coast, Summit Ascents, Glaciers, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable						

Table 126: GPT46 Section Summary


Satellite Image 103:GPT46
Rio Serrano
GPT46 Start
Cerro Castillo
Rio Turbio
Veinteocho de Noviembre
GPT46 End
Puerto Natales
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
20 km



Elevation Profile 87: GPT46 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 88: GPT46 Regular Packrafting Route

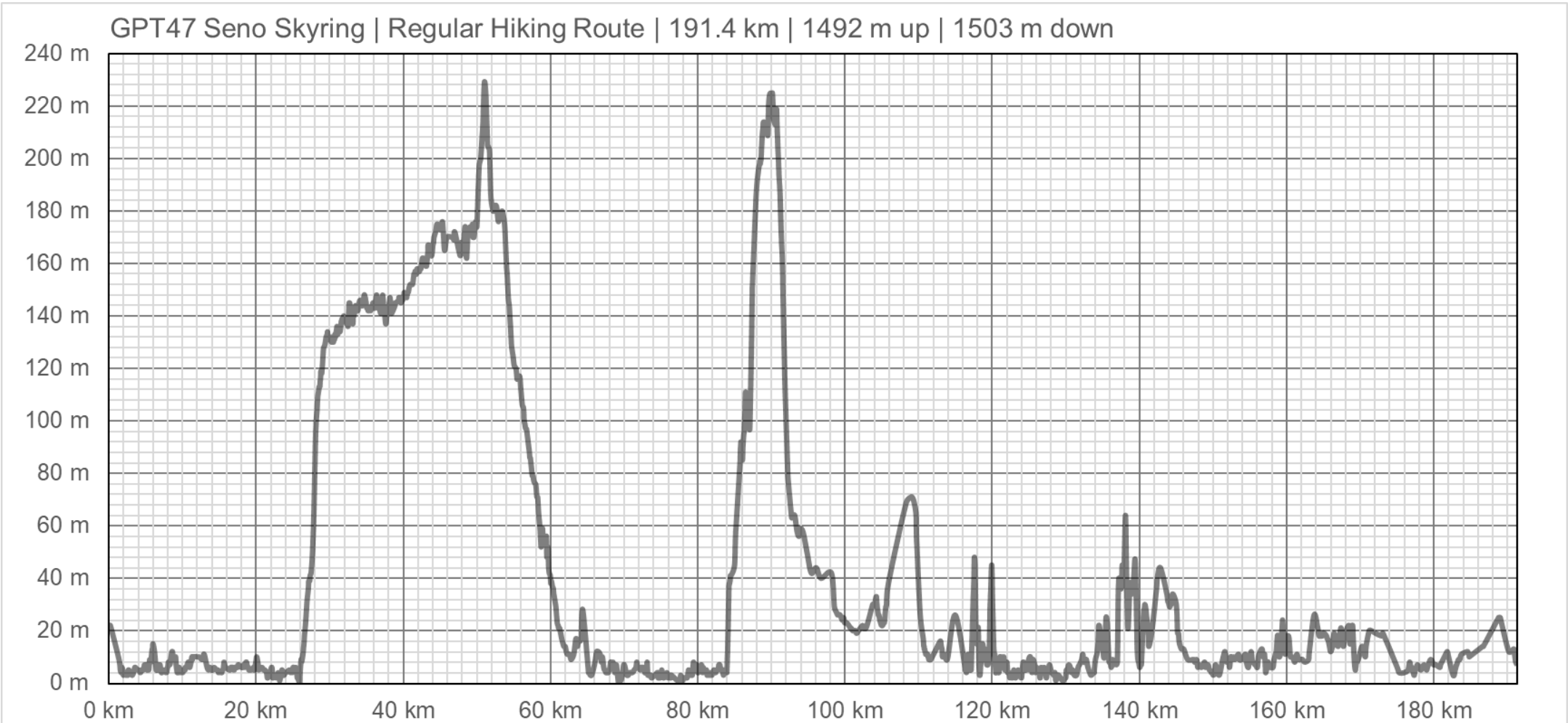
2.5.59 GPT47: Seno Skyring

GPT47: Seno Skyring				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	K: Magallanes		Total	**191.4 km**	**45 h**	**191.4 km**	**45 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	3.5 km	1.8%	3.5 km	1.8%
Start	Puerto Natales		Minor Roads (MR)	127.8 km	66.8%	127.8 km	66.8%
Finish	Rio Verde		Primary Roads (PR)	1.9 km	1.0%	1.9 km	1.0%
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	58.2 km	30.4%	58.2 km	30.4%
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT46, GPT48		Investigation (I)	(4.1 km)	(2.1%)	(4.1 km)	(2.1%)
Options	355 km (4 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	(28.9 km)	(15.1%)	(28.9 km)	(15.1%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	5 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting / ↓ Southbound seams preferable						
Character	Wetland, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 127: GPT47 Section Summary

Satellite Image 104:GPT47





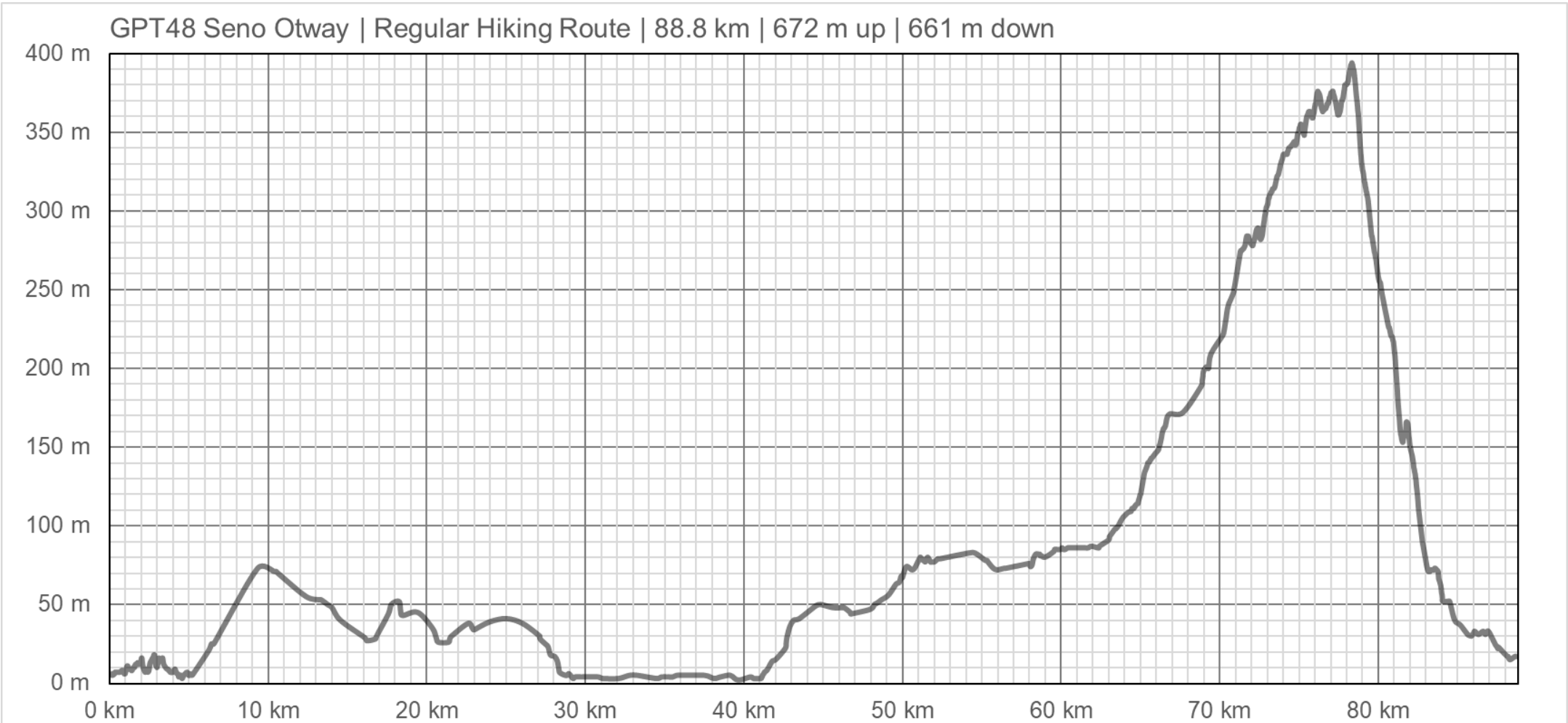
Elevation Profile 89: GPT47 Regular Route

2.5.60 GPT48: Seno Otway

GPT48: Seno Otway				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	K: Magallanes		Total	**88.8 km**	**20 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Rio Verde		Minor Roads (MR)	74.7 km	84.1%	-	-
Finish	Punta Arenas		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	14.2 km	15.9%	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT47, GPT49, GPT60H, GPT65H		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	45 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 128: GPT48 Section Summary


Satellite Image 105:GPT48
Rio Verde
GPT48 Start
Aeropuerto Punta Arenas
Punta Arenas
GPT48 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
20 km



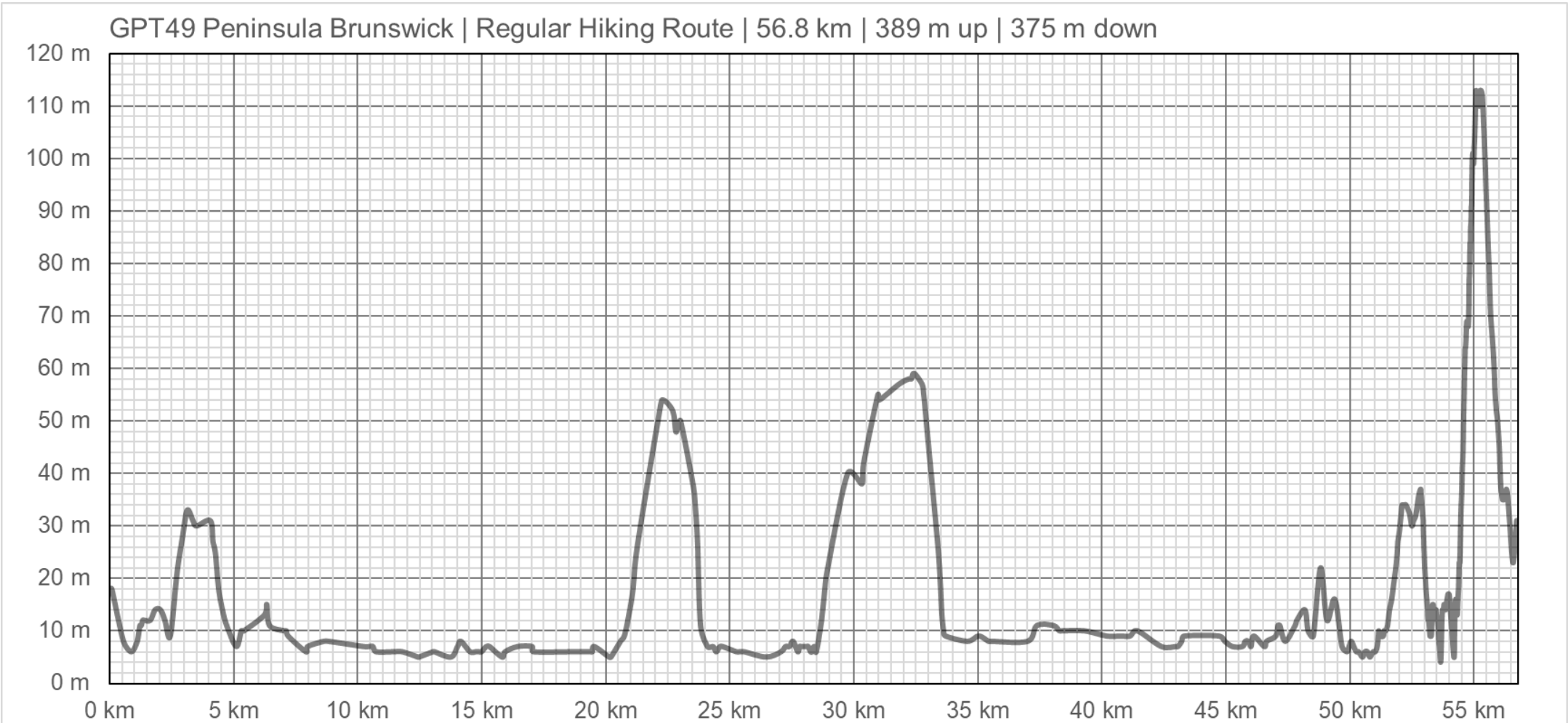
Elevation Profile 90: GPT48 Regular Route

2.5.61 GPT49: Penunsila Brunswick

GPT49: Peninsula Brunswick				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	K: Magallanes		Total	**56.8 km**	**12 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Punta Arenas		Minor Roads (MR)	3.8 km	6.6%	-	-
Finish	Fuerte Bulnes		Primary Roads (PR)	51.2 km	90.1%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	1.9 km	3.3%	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT48, GPT50, GPT60H, GPT60P, GPT65H		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	122 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Sea Coast, Farmland, Road Walking						
Challenges	-						

Table 129: GPT49 Section Summary


Satellite Image 106:GPT49
Punta Arenas
GPT49 Start
Porvenir
Bahia Chilota
Rinconada Bulnes
GPT49 End
San Juan
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
20 km



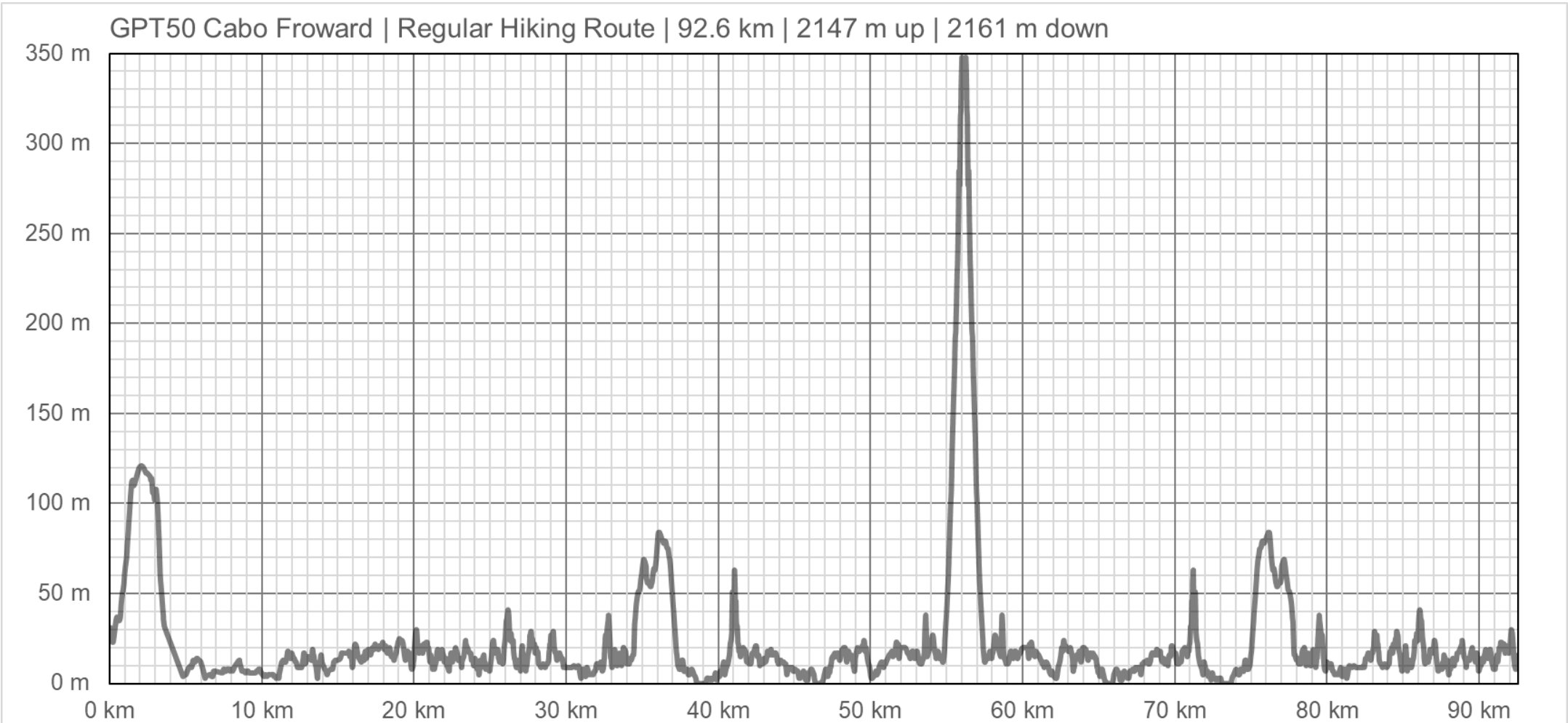
Elevation Profile 91: GPT49 Regular Route

2.5.62 GPT50: Cabo Forward

GPT50: Cabo Froward				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	K: Magallanes		Total	**92.6 km**	**26 h**	**92.6 km**	**26 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	73.3 km	79.2%	73.3 km	79.2%
Start	Fuerte Bulnes		Minor Roads (MR)	19.2 km	20.8%	19.2 km	20.8%
Finish	Cabo Forward		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT49, GPT60P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	29 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Circuit Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Forest, Sea Coast						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Possibly Impassable						

Table 130: GPT50 Section Summary


Satellite Image 107:GPT50
GPT50 Start
San Juan
GPT50 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
10 km



Elevation Profile 92: GPT50 Regular Route

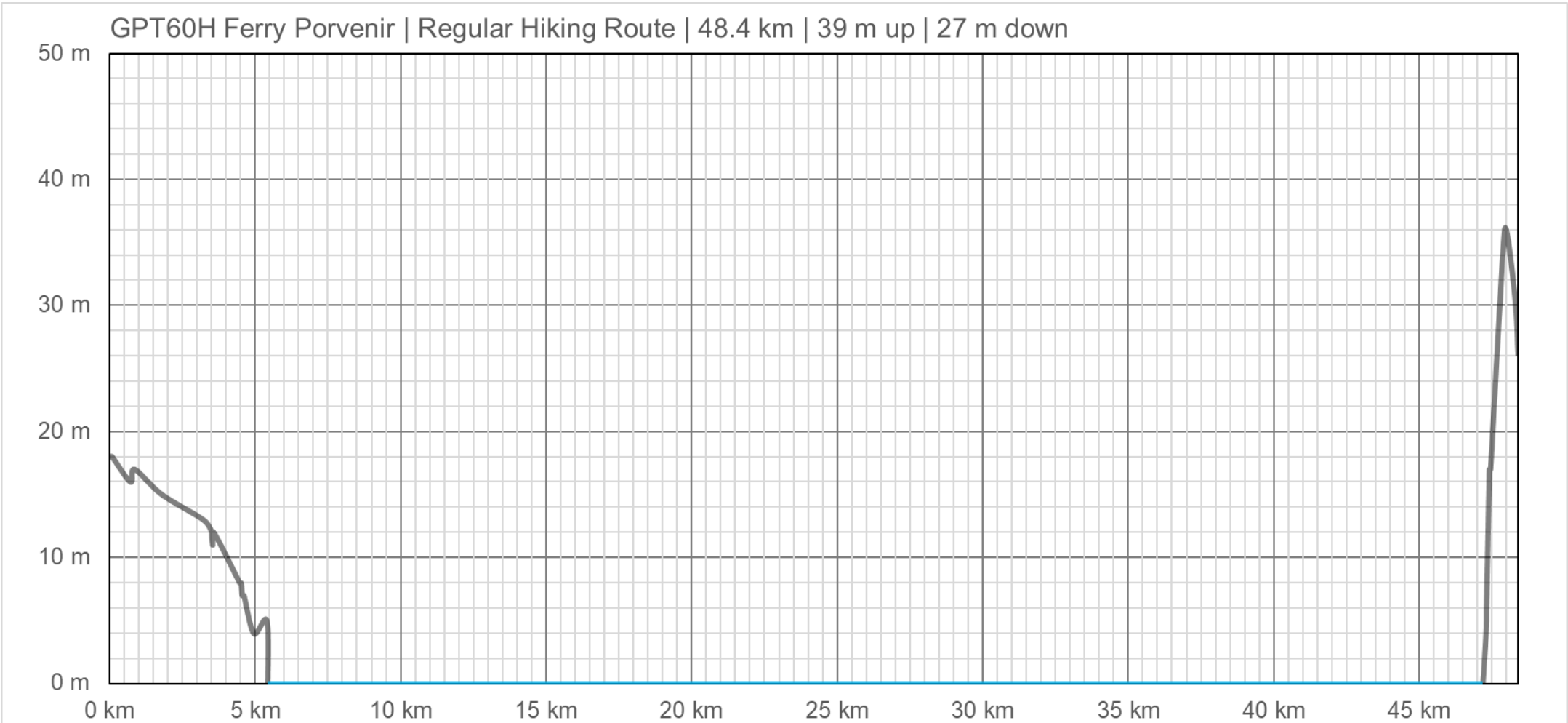
2.5.63 GPT60H: Ferry Porvenir

GPT60H: Ferry Porvenir				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**6.6 km**	**1 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Punta Arenas		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Porvenir		Primary Roads (PR)	6.6 km	100.0%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Ferry Only		Ferry (FY)	(41.8 km)	(86.3%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT48, GPT49, GPT61		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	-	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Sea Coast						
Challenges	-						

Table 131: GPT60H Section Summary

Satellite Image 108:GPT60H



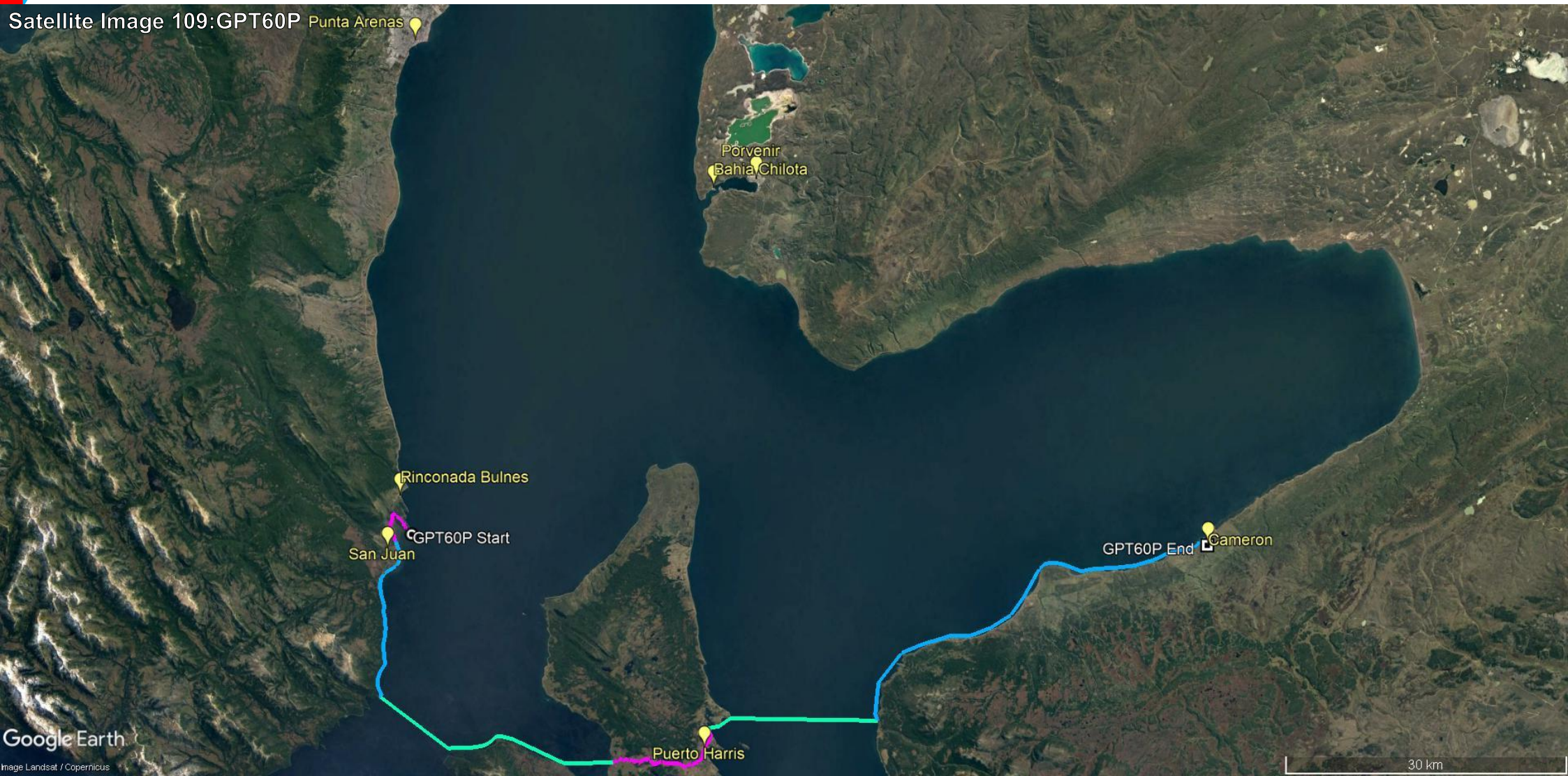


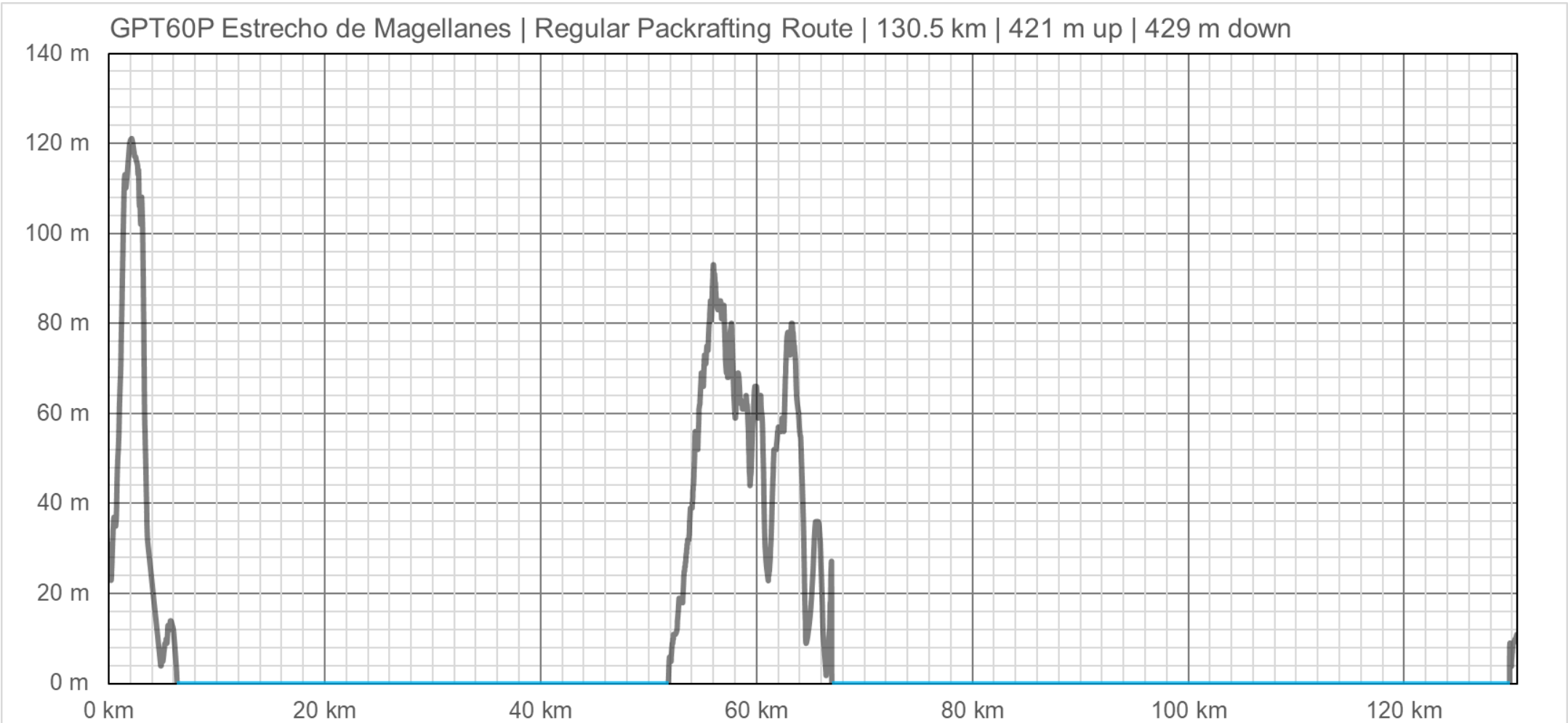
Elevation Profile 93: GPT60H Regular Hiking Route

2.5.64 GPT60P: Estrecho de Magellanes

GPT60P: Estrecho de Magellanes				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**-**	**-**	**130.5 km**	**37 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	0.5 km	0.4%
Start	Fuerte Bulnes		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	21.7 km	16.6%
Finish	Camaron		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	(Maybe: Sep - May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT49, GPT50, GPT61, GPT62		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(45.7 km)	(35.1%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**108.3 km**	**83.0%**
Attraction	-	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		108.3 km	83.0%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Questionable if packrafting of Estrecho de Magellanes is advisable						
Character	Sea Coast, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 132: GPT60P Section Summary


Satellite Image 109:GPT60P
Punta Arenas
Porvenir
Bahia Chilota
Rinconada Bulnes
GPT60P Start
San Juan
GPT60P End
Cameron
Puerto Harris
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
30 km



Elevation Profile 94: GPT60P Regular Packrafting Route

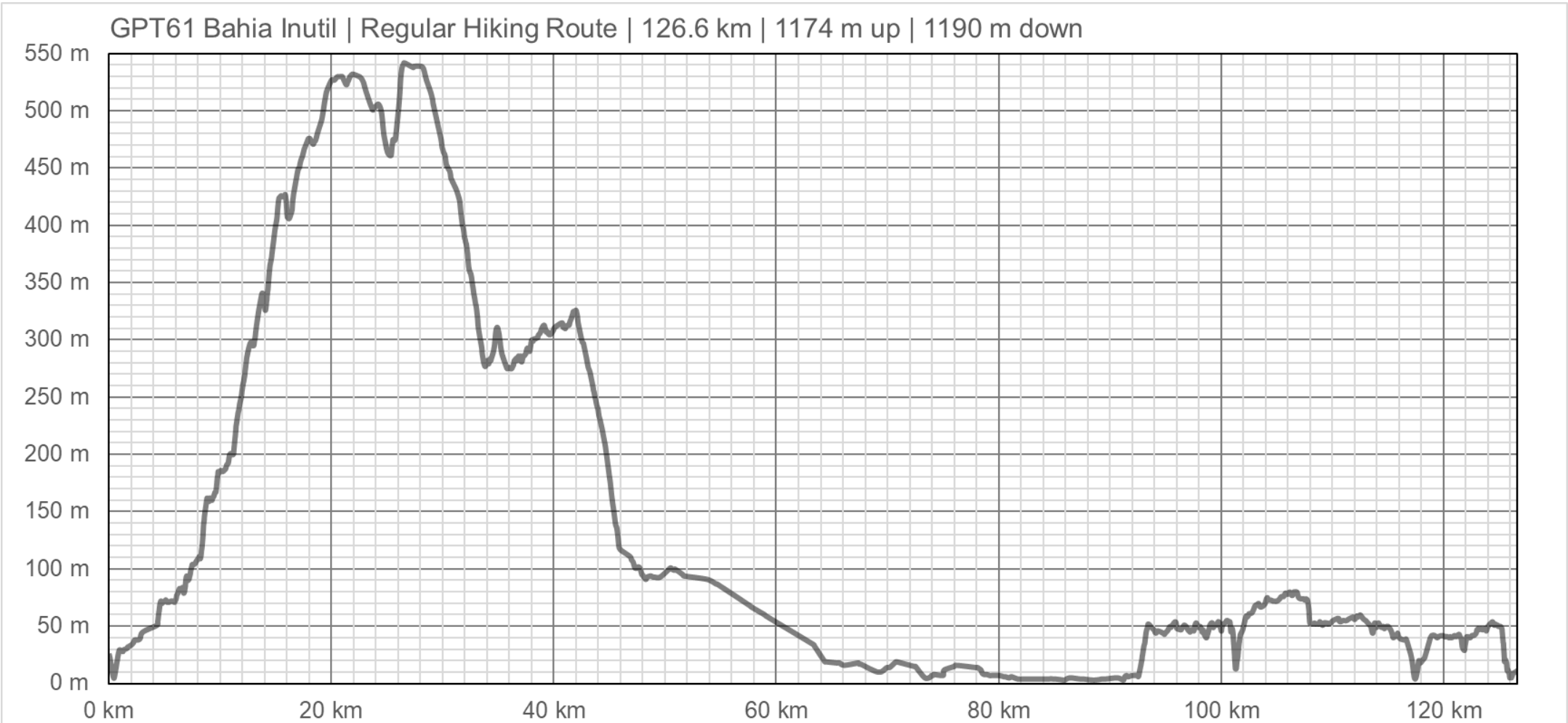
2.5.65 GPT61: Bahía Inútil

GPT61: Bahia Inutil				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**126.6 km**	**29 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Porvenir		Minor Roads (MR)	48.6 km	38.4%	-	-
Finish	Camaron		Primary Roads (PR)	67.7 km	53.5%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	10.3 km	8.1%	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Only Burden		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT60H, GPT60P, GPT62		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	56 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Semi-Desert, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 133: GPT61 Section Summary

Satellite Image 110:GPT61





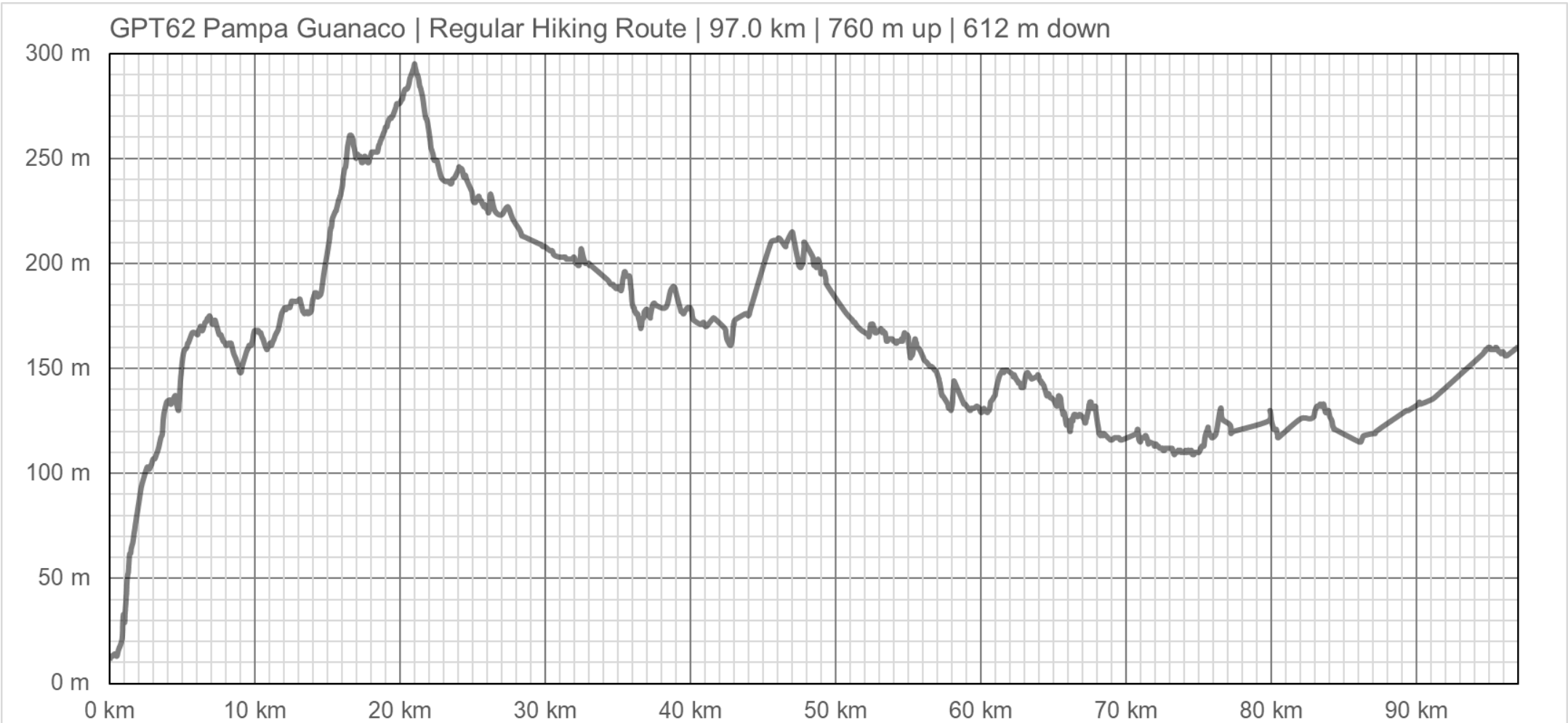
Elevation Profile 95: GPT61 Regular Route

2.5.66 GPT62: Pampa Guanaco

GPT62: Pampa Guanaco				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**97.0 km**	**23 h**	**60.6 km**	**14 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	1.9 km	1.9%	-	-
Start	Camaron		Minor Roads (MR)	45.6 km	47.0%	31.2 km	51.5%
Finish	Pampa Guanaco		Primary Roads (PR)	26.6 km	27.4%	13.9 km	23.0%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	23.0 km	23.7%	15.5 km	25.5%
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT60P, GPT61, GPT63, GPT68		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	626 km (5 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Semi-Desert, Wetland, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 134: GPT62 Section Summary


Satellite Image 111:GPT62
GPT62 Start
Cameron
Puerto Harris
GPT62 Packrafting End
GPT62 Hiking End
Pampa Guanaco
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
30 km



Elevation Profile 96: GPT62 Regular Hiking Route

2.5.66.1 Links to other Resources

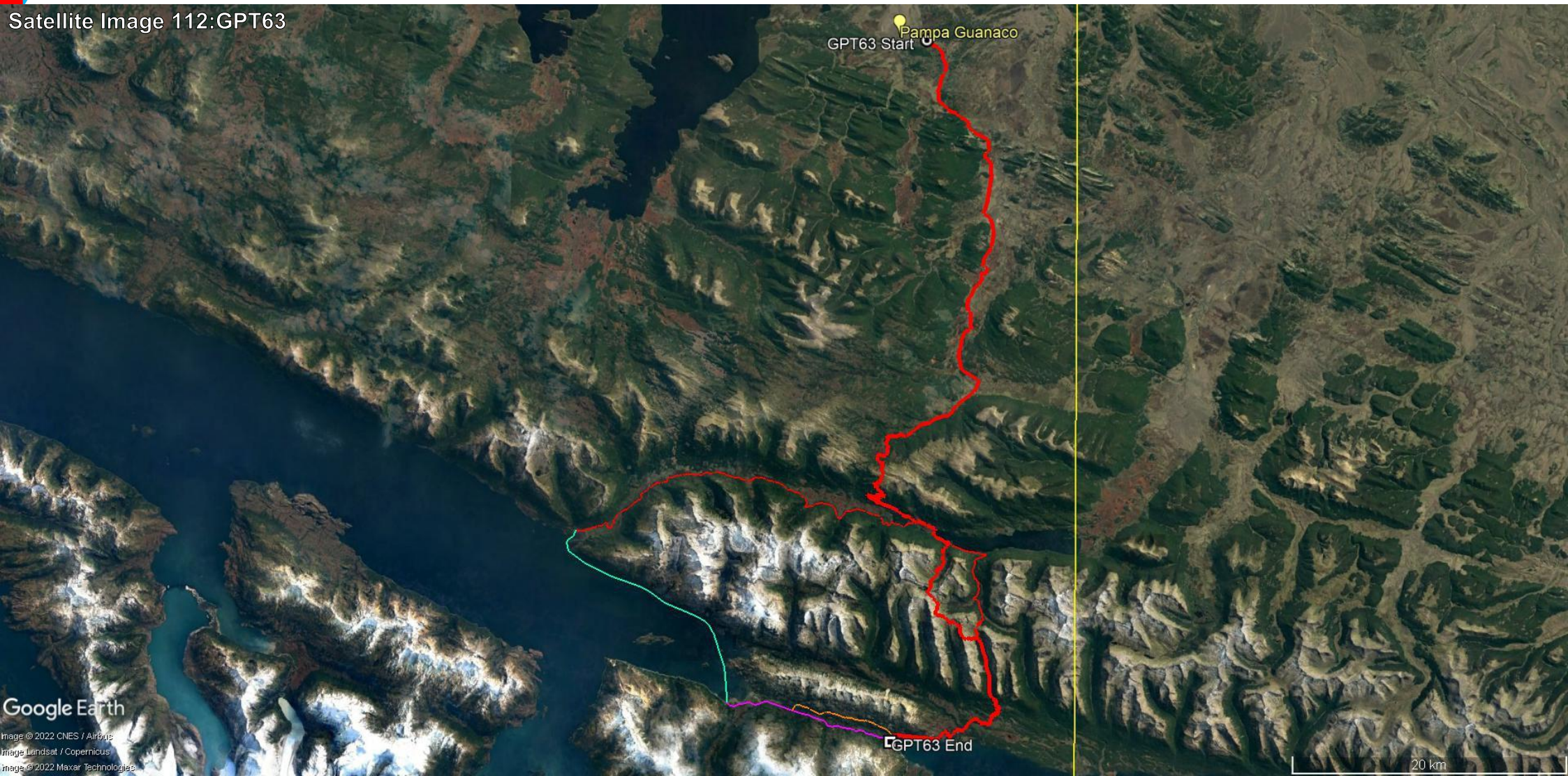
https://www.outdoorseiten.net/vb5/forum/tourenberichte/tourenberichte-ferne-l%C3%A4nder-%C3%BCbersee/99330-cl-getting-lost-in-karukinka-feuerland

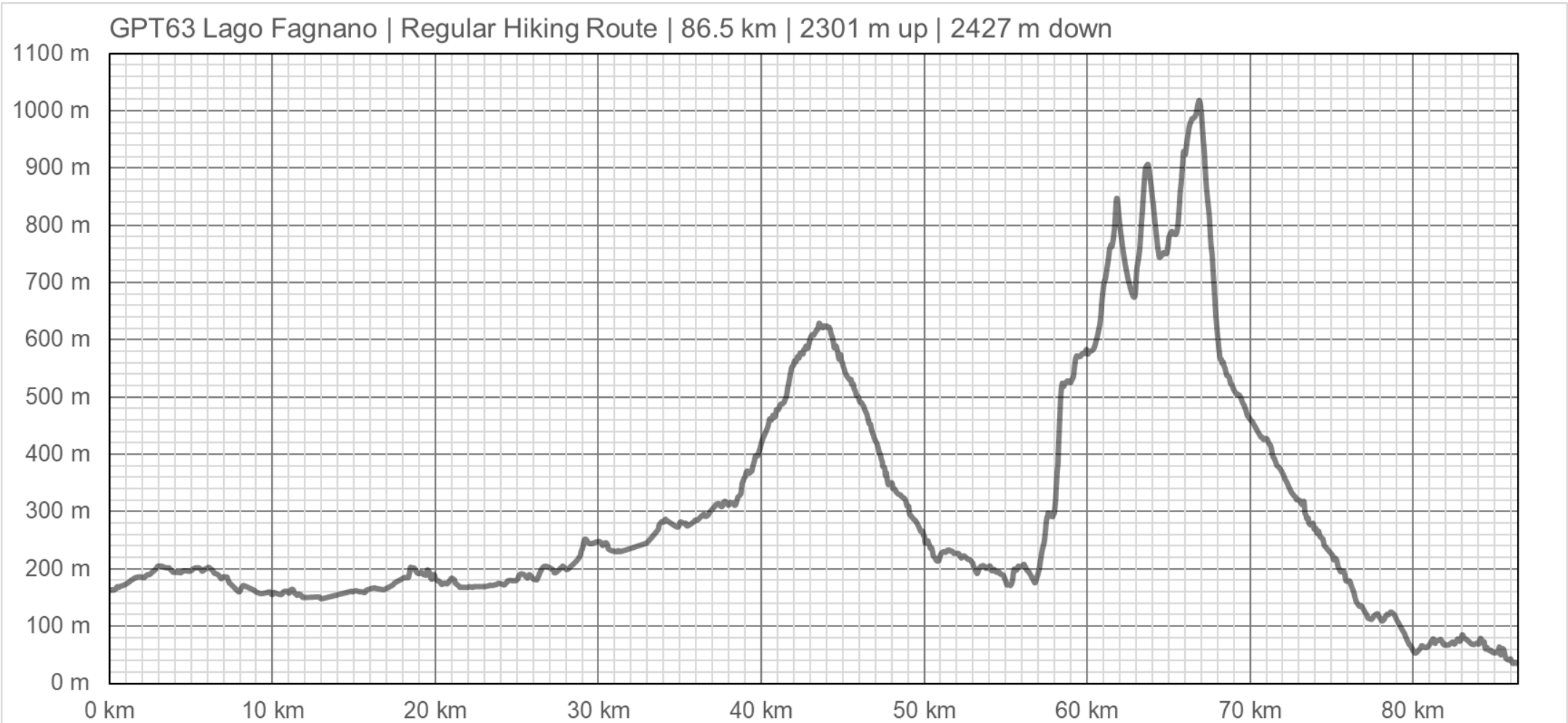
2.5.67 GPT63: Lago Fagnano

GPT63: Lago Fagnano				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**86.5 km**	**24 h**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	1.9 km	2.2%	-	-
Start	Pampa Guanaco		Minor Roads (MR)	75.1 km	86.9%	-	-
Finish	Lago Fagnano (Este)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	9.5 km	11.0%	-	-
Traversable	Nov - Mar (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT62, GPT64, GPT68		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	121 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Wetland, Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 135: GPT63 Section Summary

Satellite Image 112:GPT63





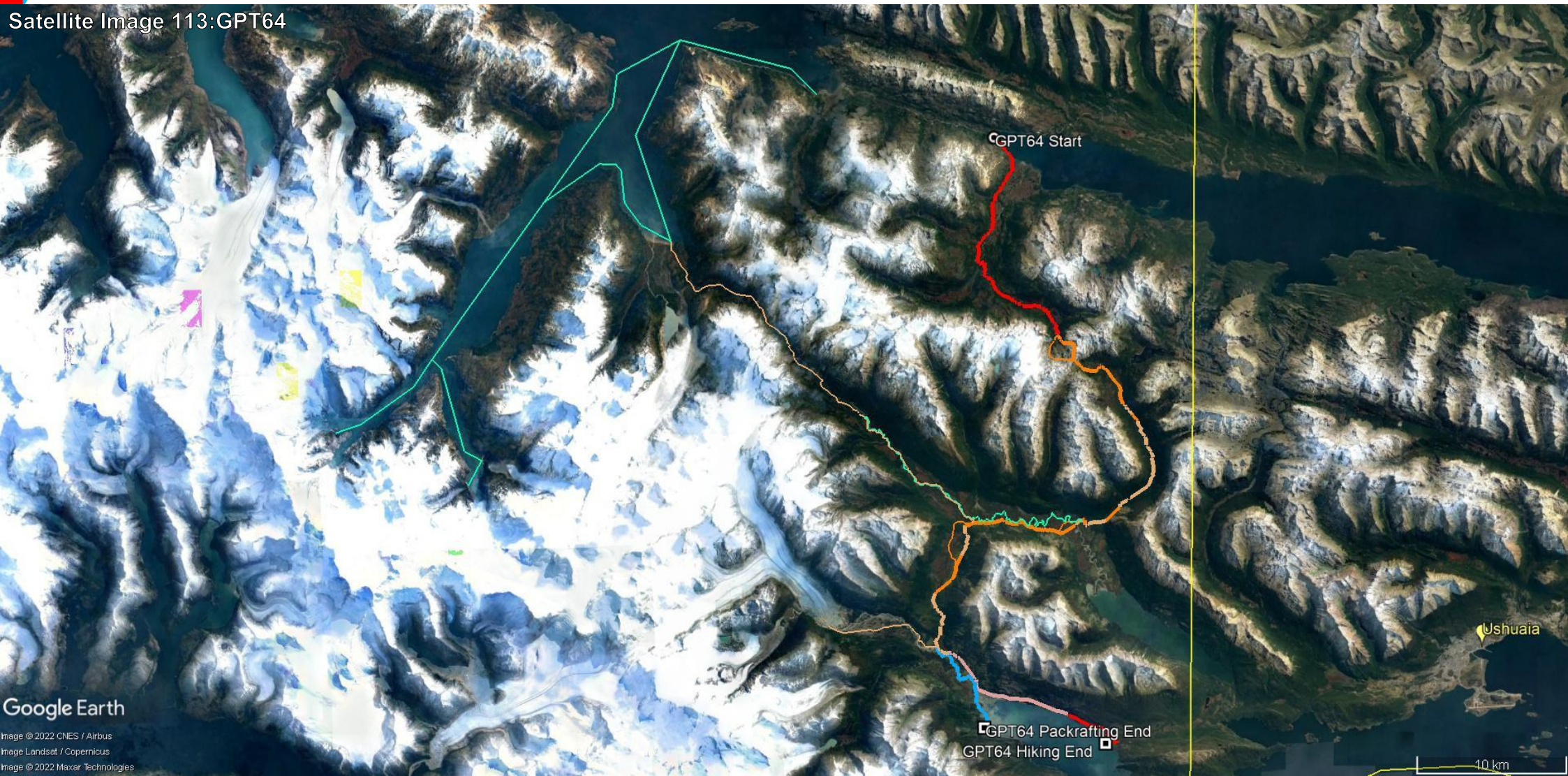
Elevation Profile 97: GPT63 Regular Route

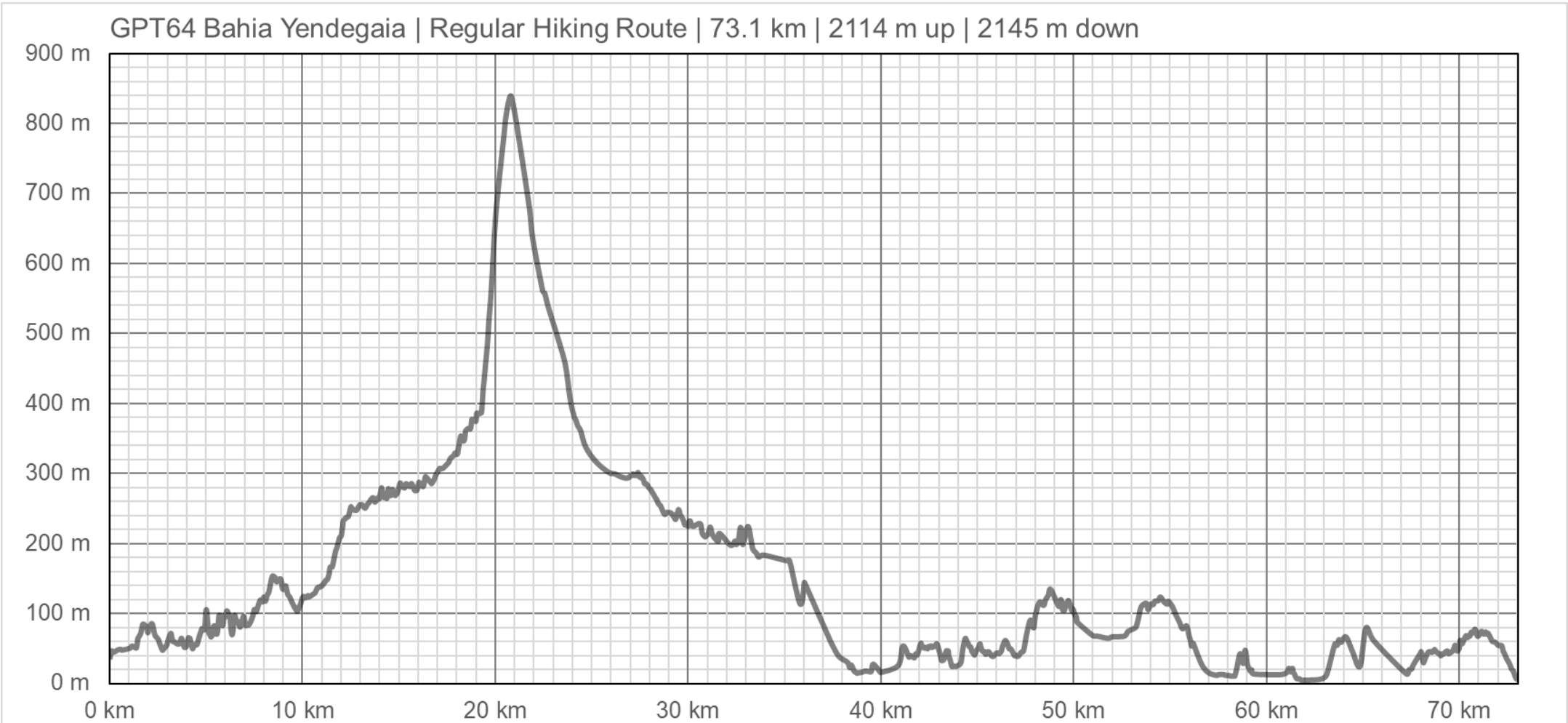
2.5.68 GPT64: Bahia Yendegaia

GPT64: Bahia Yendegaia				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**73.1 km**	**34 h**	**65.5 km**	**32 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	0.9 km	1.3%	-	-
Start	Lago Fagnano (Este)		Minor Roads (MR)	33.9 km	46.4%	19.3 km	29.5%
Finish	Bahía Yendegaia		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	22.6 km	30.9%	22.6 km	34.4%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Oct, Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	15.7 km	21.5%	15.7 km	24.0%
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT63, GPT65H, GPT65P, GPT66, GPT69		Investigation (I)	(26.9 km)	(36.8%)	(16.4 km)	(25.1%)
Options	166 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	(39.2 km)	(53.6%)	(38.3 km)	(58.4%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**7.9 km**	**12.1%**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		7.9 km	12.1%
Difficulty	6 (of 5)	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Wetland, Subpolar Forest, Alpine Terrain, Sea Coast, Glaciers, Mountain Pastures, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

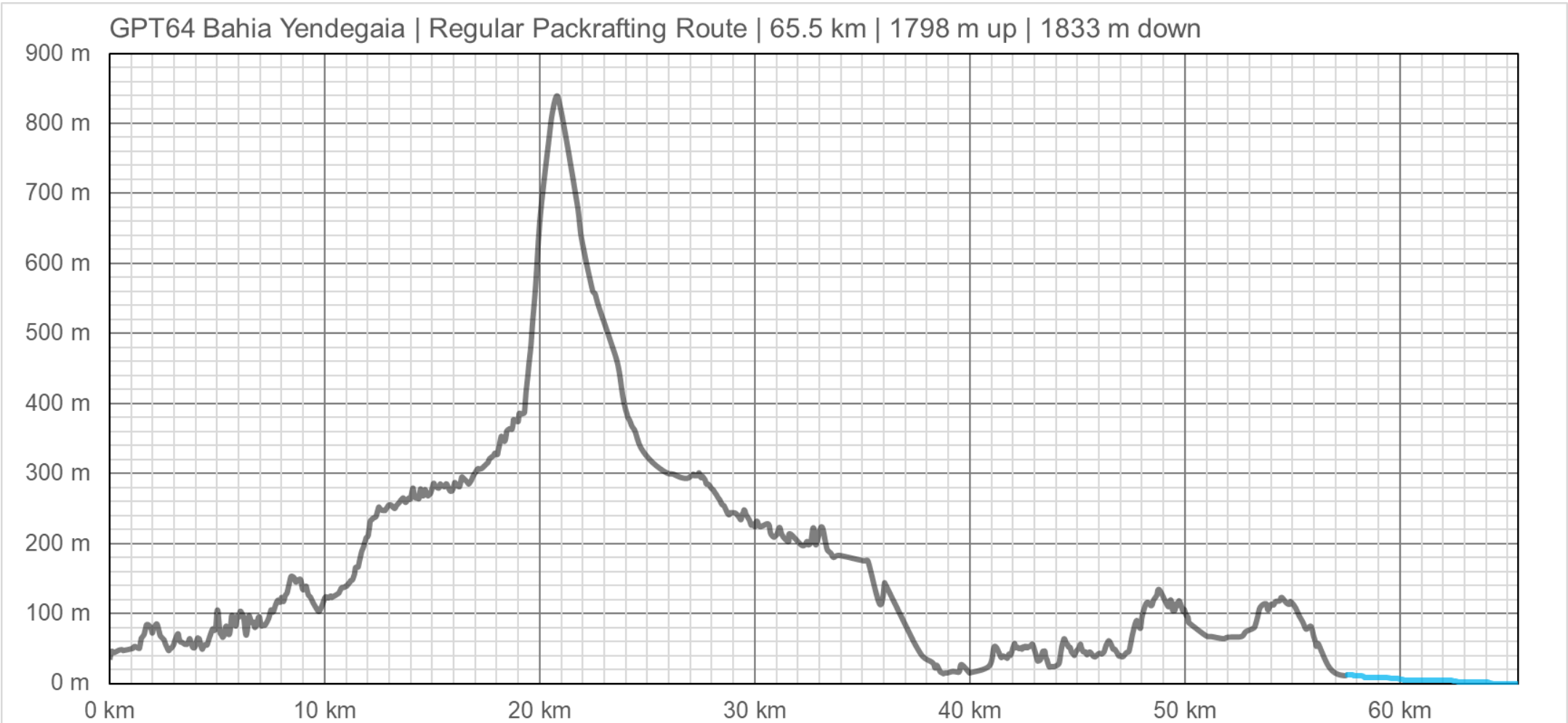
Table 136: GPT64 Section Summary

Satellite Image 113:GPT64





Elevation Profile 98: GPT64 Regular Hiking Route



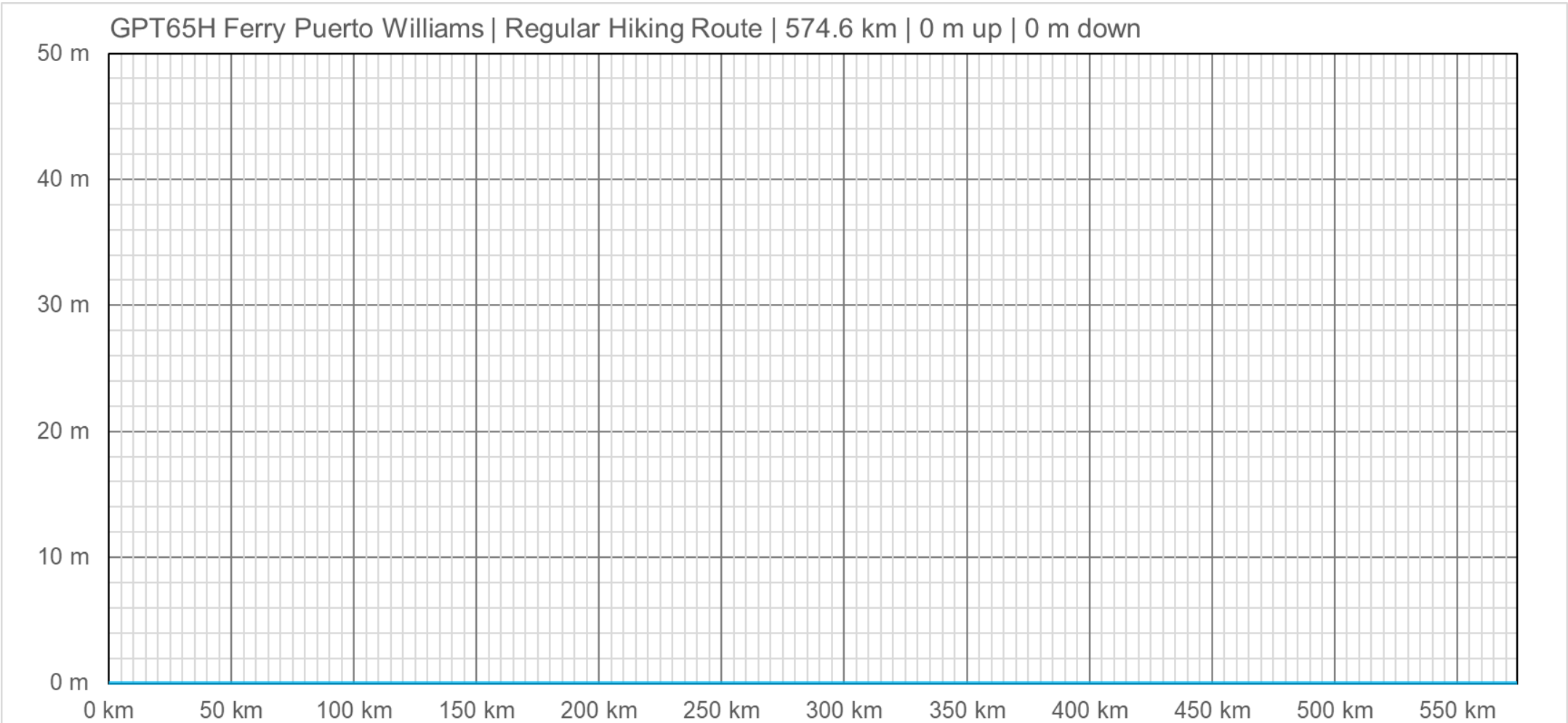
Elevation Profile 99: GPT64 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.69 GPT65H: Ferry Puerto Williams

GPT65H: Ferry Puerto Williams				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Bahía Yendegaia		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Puerto Williams		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Ferry Only		Ferry (FY)	(574.6 km)	(100.0%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT48, GPT49, GPT60H, GPT64, GPT66, GPT69		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	-	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	-						
Challenges	-						

Table 137: GPT65 Section Summary


Satellite Image 114:GPT65H
Aeropuerto Punta Arenas
Punta Arenas
GPT65H Start
Porvenir
Bahia Chilota
Rinconada Bulnes
San Juan
Cameron
Puerto Harris
Rio Grande
Pampa Guanaco
Tolhuin
Ushuaia
Puerto Almanza
Estancia Harberton
Puerto Williams
Puerto Navarino
GPT65H End
Puerto Toro
Google Earth
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2022 TerraMetrics
100 km



Elevation Profile 100: GPT65H Regular Route

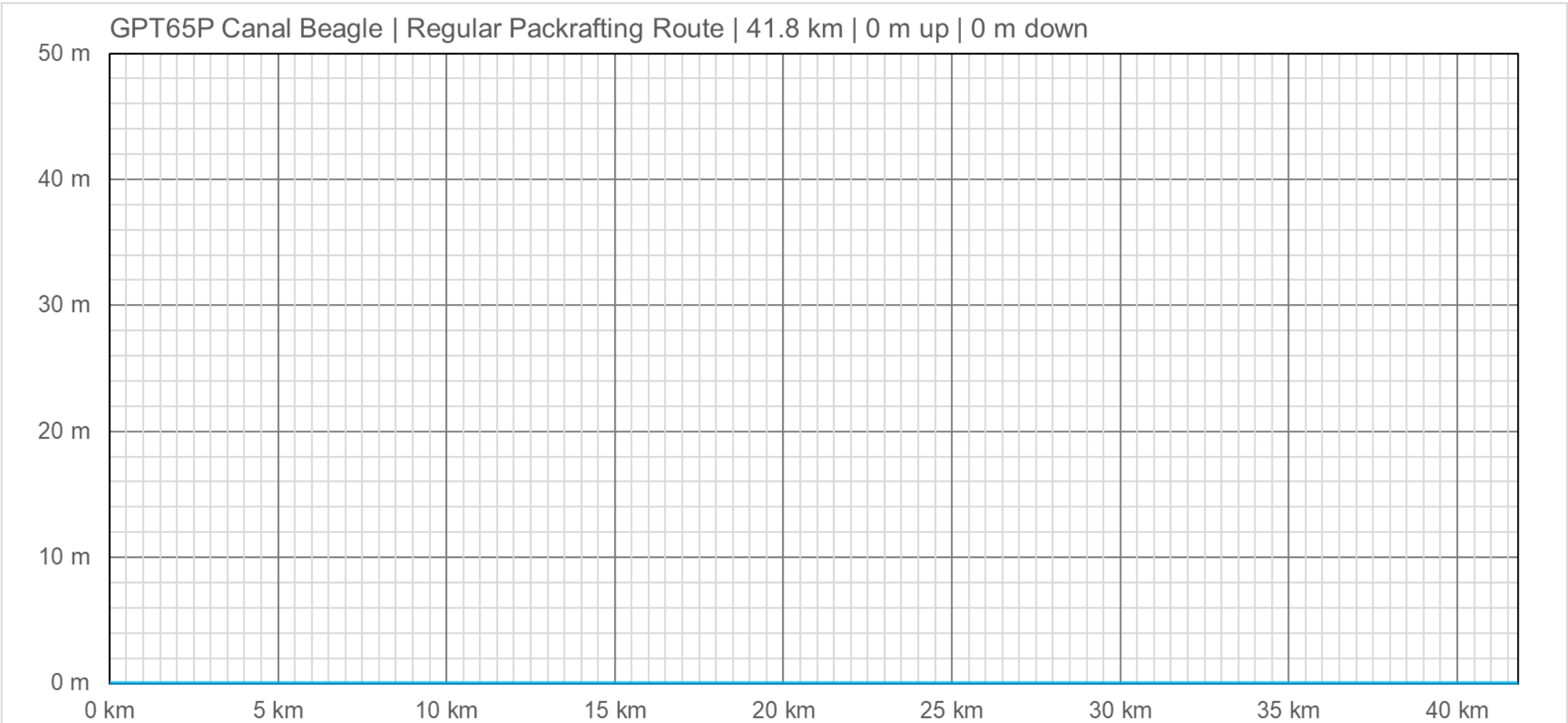
2.5.70 GPT65P: Canal Beagle

GPT65P: Canal Beagle				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**-**	**-**	**41.8 km**	**12 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Bahía Yendegaia		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Puerto Navarino		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	(Maybe: Sep - May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT64, GPT65H, GPT66		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(41.8 km)	(100.0%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**41.8 km**	**100.0%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		41.8 km	100.0%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Questionable if packrafting of Canal Beagle is advisable / ↓ Southbound seams preferable						
Character	Subpolar Forest, Sea Coast, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements, Possibly Impassable						

Table 138: GPT66H Section Summary

Satellite Image 115:GPT65P



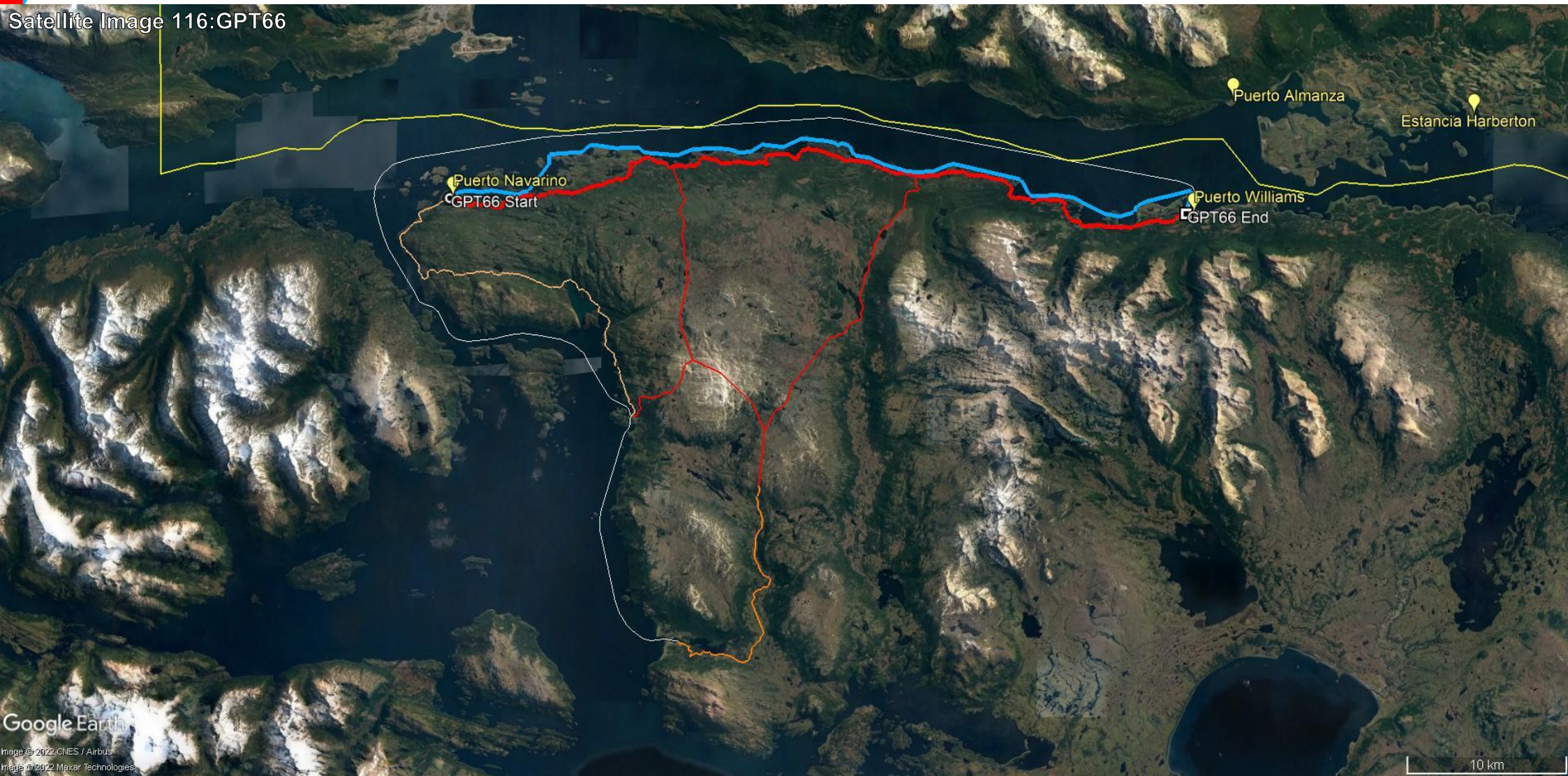


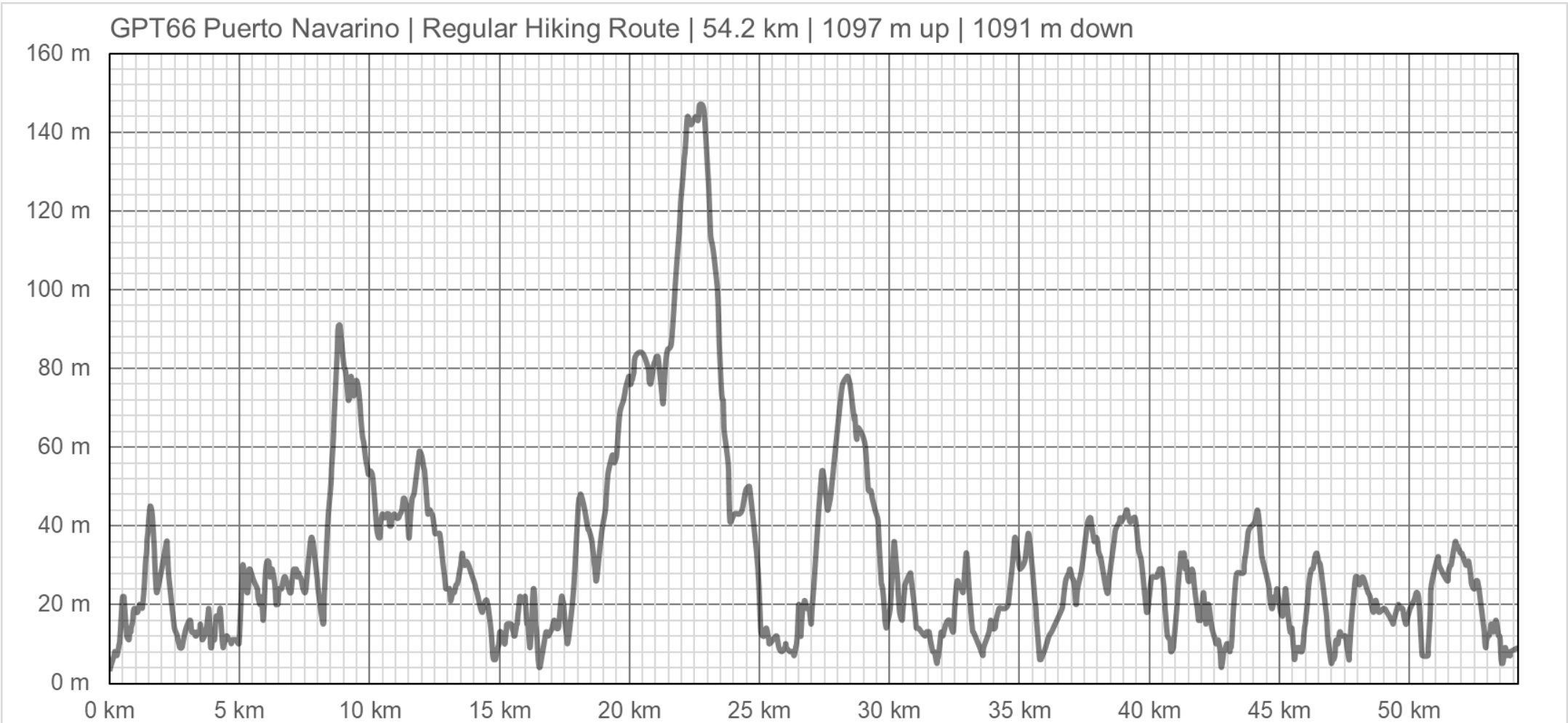
Elevation Profile 101: GPT65P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.71 GPT66: Puerto Navarino

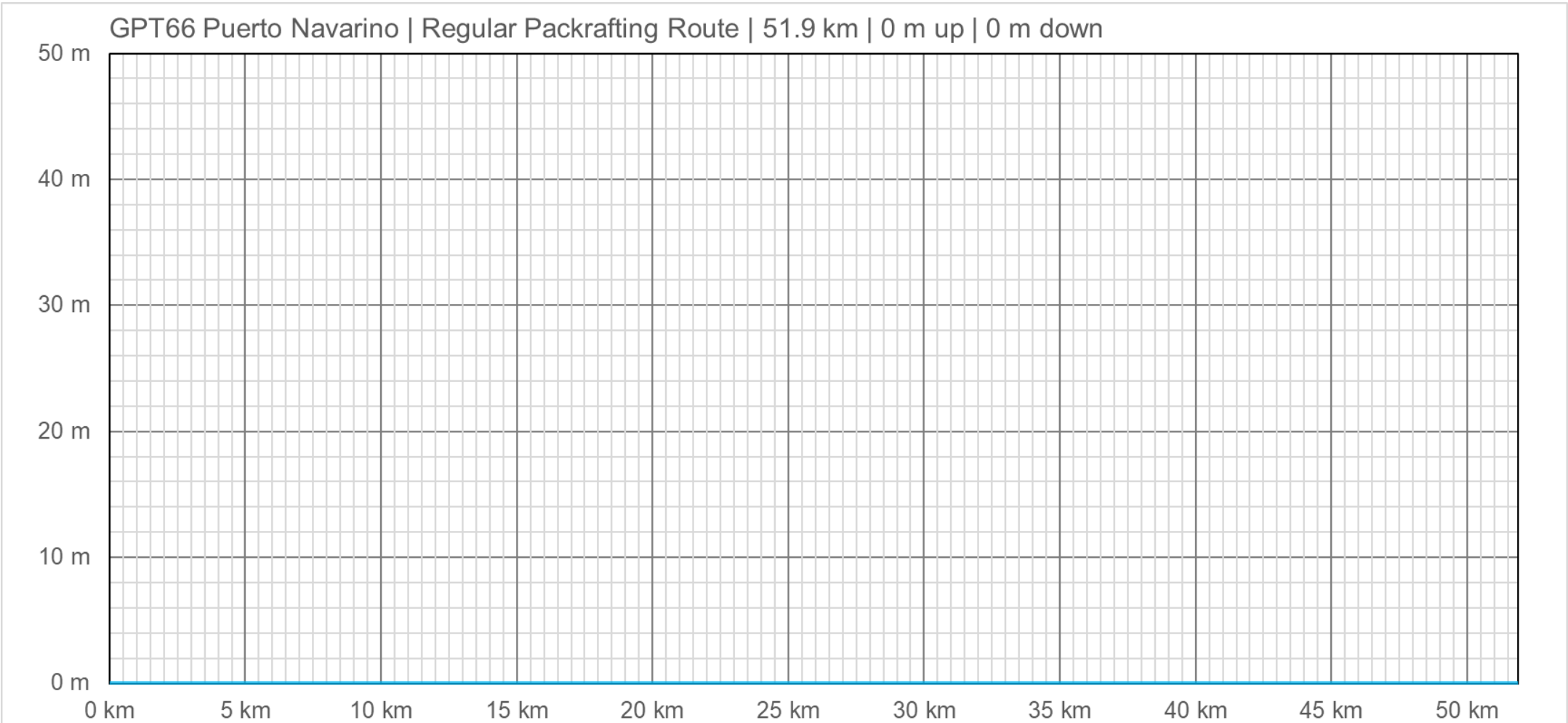
GPT66: Puerto Navarino				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**54.2 km**	**14 h**	**51.9 km**	**15 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Puerto Navarino		Minor Roads (MR)	54.2 km	100.0%	-	-
Finish	Puerto Williams		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT65H, GPT65P, GPT67, GPT69		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	98 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**51.9 km**	**100.0%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ←→	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		51.9 km	100.0%
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Subpolar Forest, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, Fjord Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Exposure to Elements						

Table 139: GPT66P Section Summary


Satellite Image 116:GPT66
Puerto Almanza
Estancia Harberton
Puerto Navarino
GPT66 Start
Puerto Williams
GPT66 End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



Elevation Profile 102: GPT66 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 103: GPT66 Regular Packrafting Route

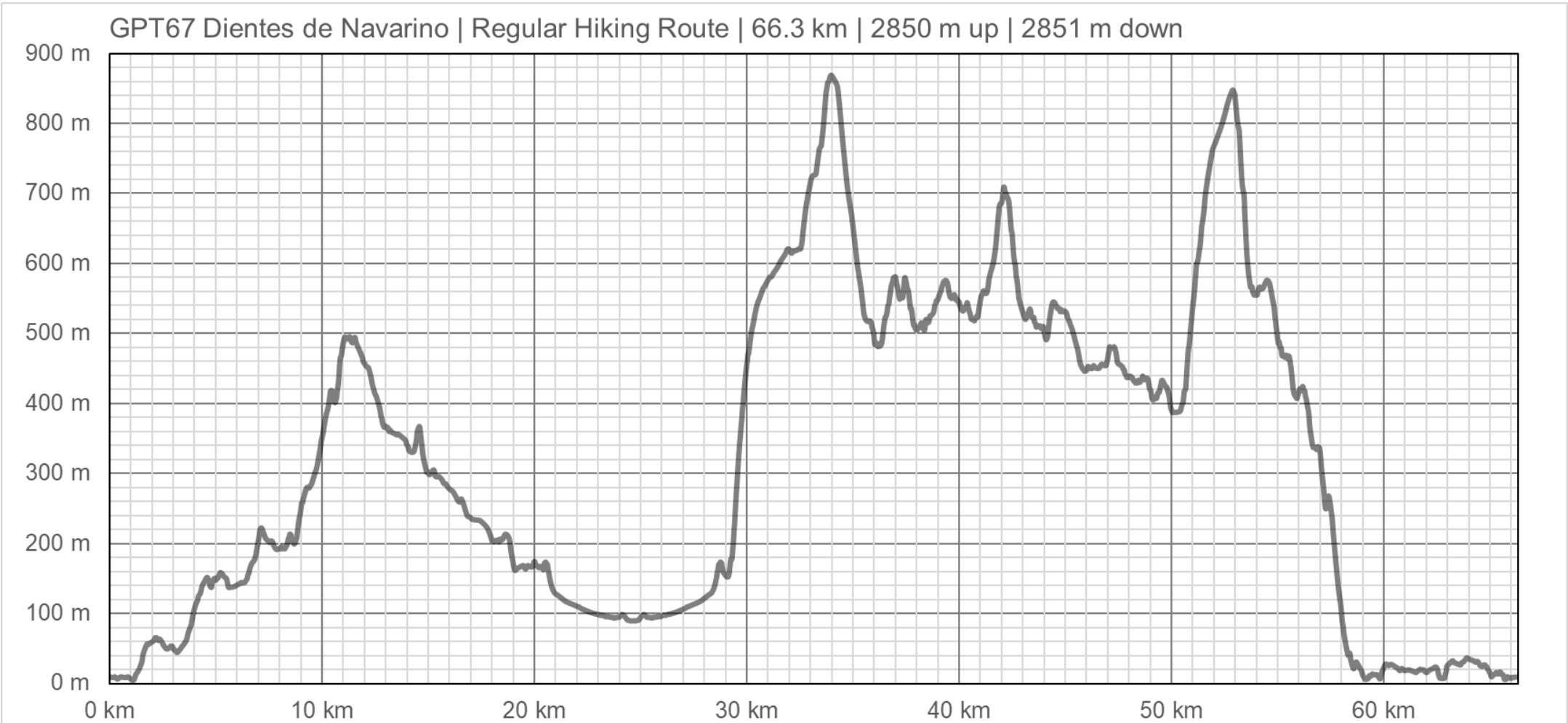
2.5.72 GPT67: Dientes de Navarino

GPT67: Dientes de Navarino				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**66.3 km**	**22 h**	**87.7 km**	**28 h**
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	56.2 km	84.7%	56.2 km	64.1%
Start	Puerto Williams		Minor Roads (MR)	10.1 km	15.3%	10.1 km	11.6%
Finish	Puerto Williams		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	6.3 km	7.1%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Oct, Nov, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	0.2 km	0.2%
Packraft	Deployable		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT66, GPT69		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	180 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(21.3 km)	(24.3%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**14.9 km**	**17.0%**
Attraction	5 (of 5)	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		0.1 km	0.1%
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		14.8 km	16.9%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Circuit						
Character	Wetland, Subpolar Forest, Alpine Terrain, Sea Coast, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable						

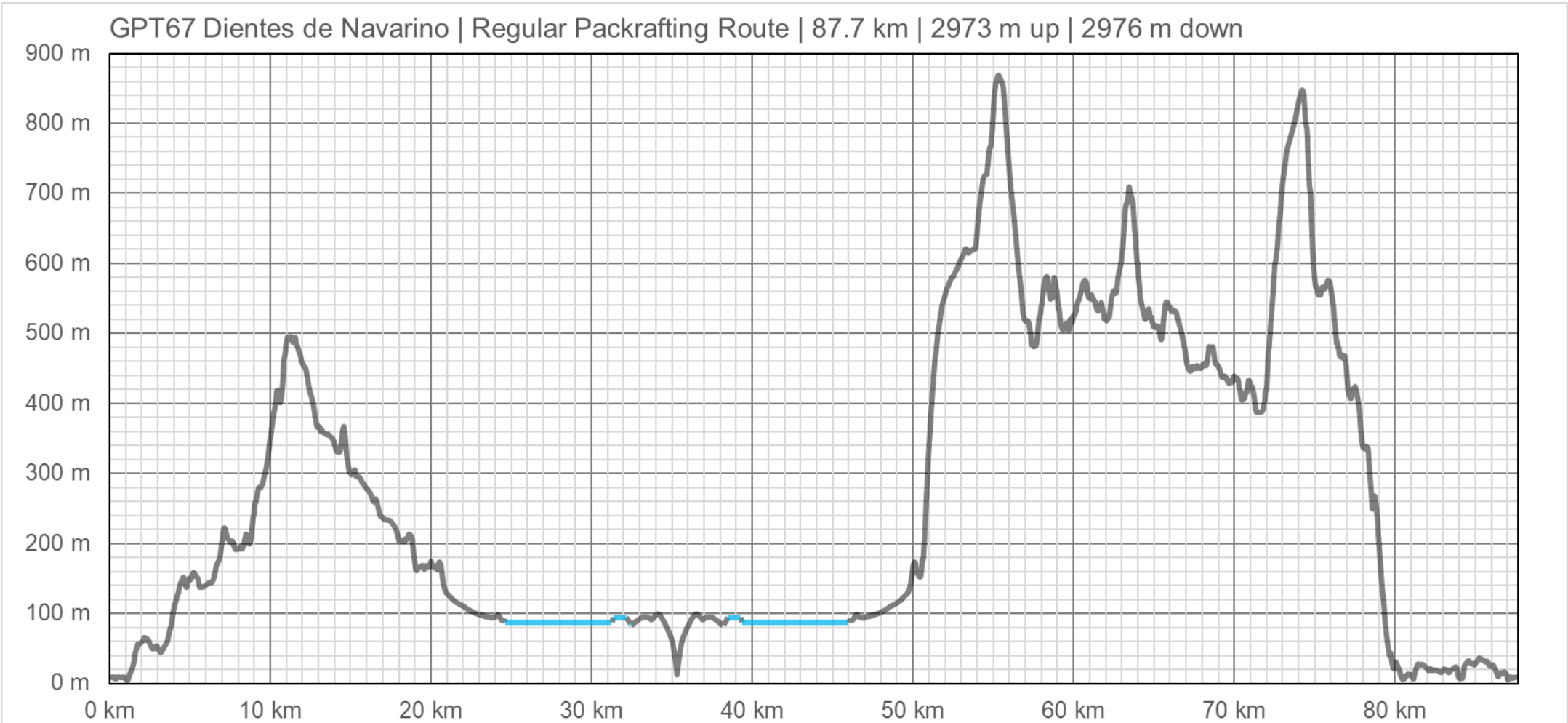
Table 140: GPT67 Section Summary

Satellite Image 117:GPT67





Elevation Profile 104: GPT67 Regular Hiking Route

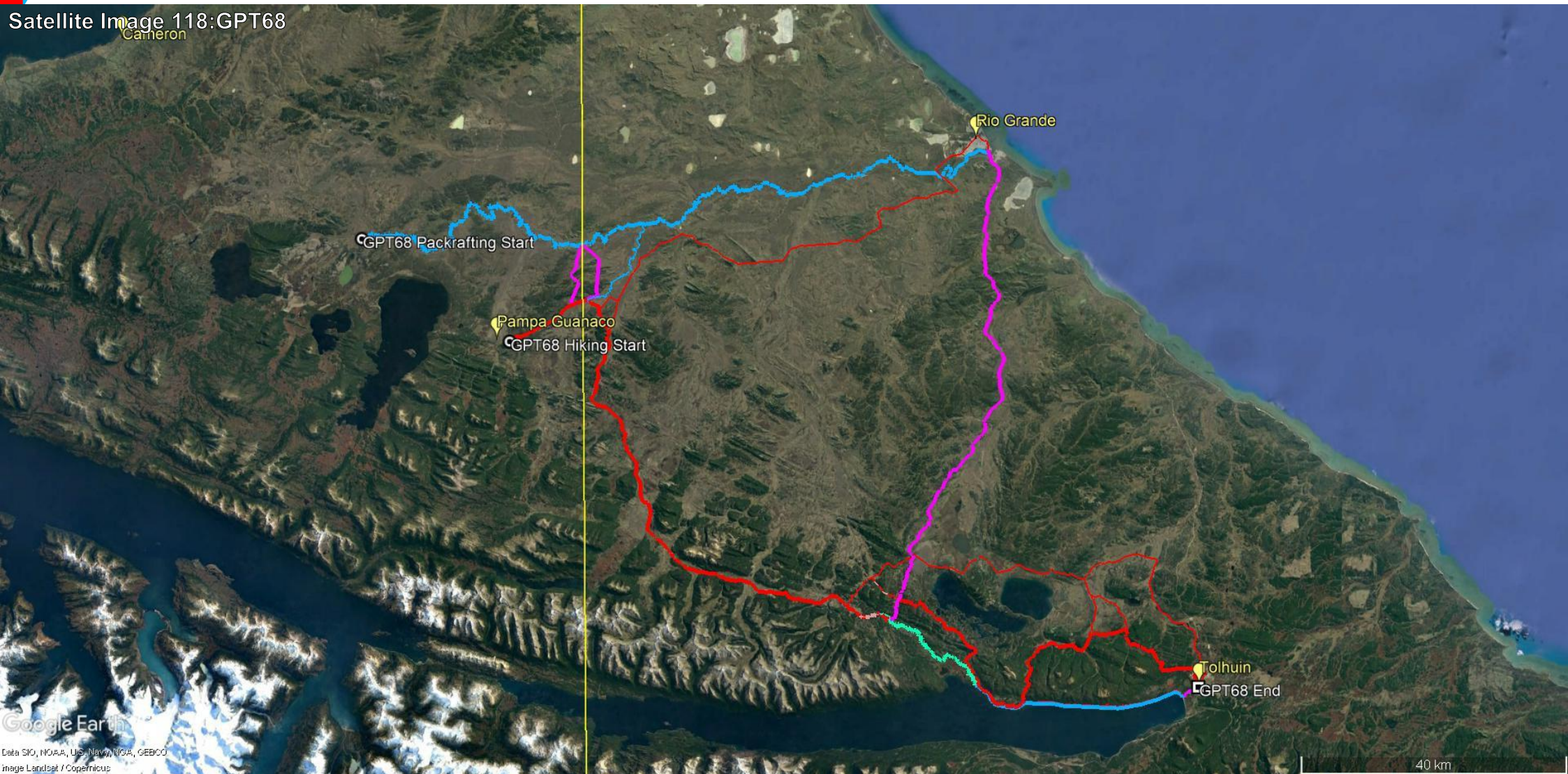


Elevation Profile 105: GPT67 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.73 GPT68: Rio Grande

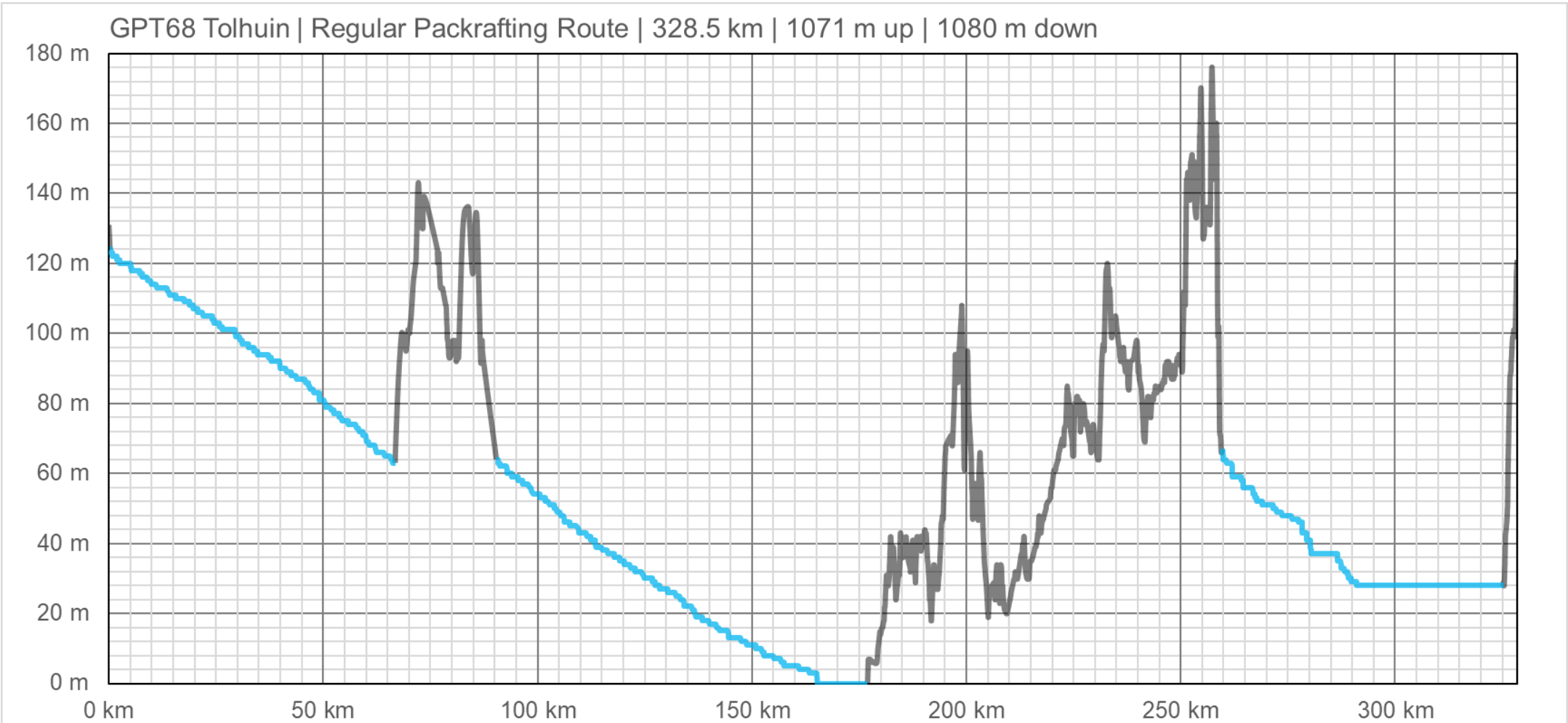
GPT68: Tolhuin				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**183.4 km**	**49 h**	**328.5 km**	**73 h**
Region	Argentina & Chile: Tierra del Fuego & Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	41.4 km	22.6%	-	-
Start	Pampa Guanaco		Minor Roads (MR)	61.7 km	33.6%	82.0 km	25.0%
Finish	Tolhuin		Primary Roads (PR)	15.7 km	8.5%	5.0 km	1.5%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	64.7 km	35.3%	23.0 km	7.0%
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT62, GPT63, GPT69		Investigation (I)	(2.3 km)	(1.2%)	-	-
Options	326 km (4 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(32.2 km)	(9.8%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**218.6 km**	**66.5%**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		185.3 km	56.4%
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		33.3 km	10.1%
Direction	Both ↓↑	Return		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Semi-Desert, Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance						

Table 141: GPT68 Section Summary


Satellite Image 118:GPT68
Cameron
Rio Grande
GPT68 Packrafting Start
Pampa Guanaco
GPT68 Hiking Start
Tolhuin
GPT68 End
Google Earth
Data SIO, NOAA, US Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
40 km



Elevation Profile 106: GPT68 Regular Hiking Route

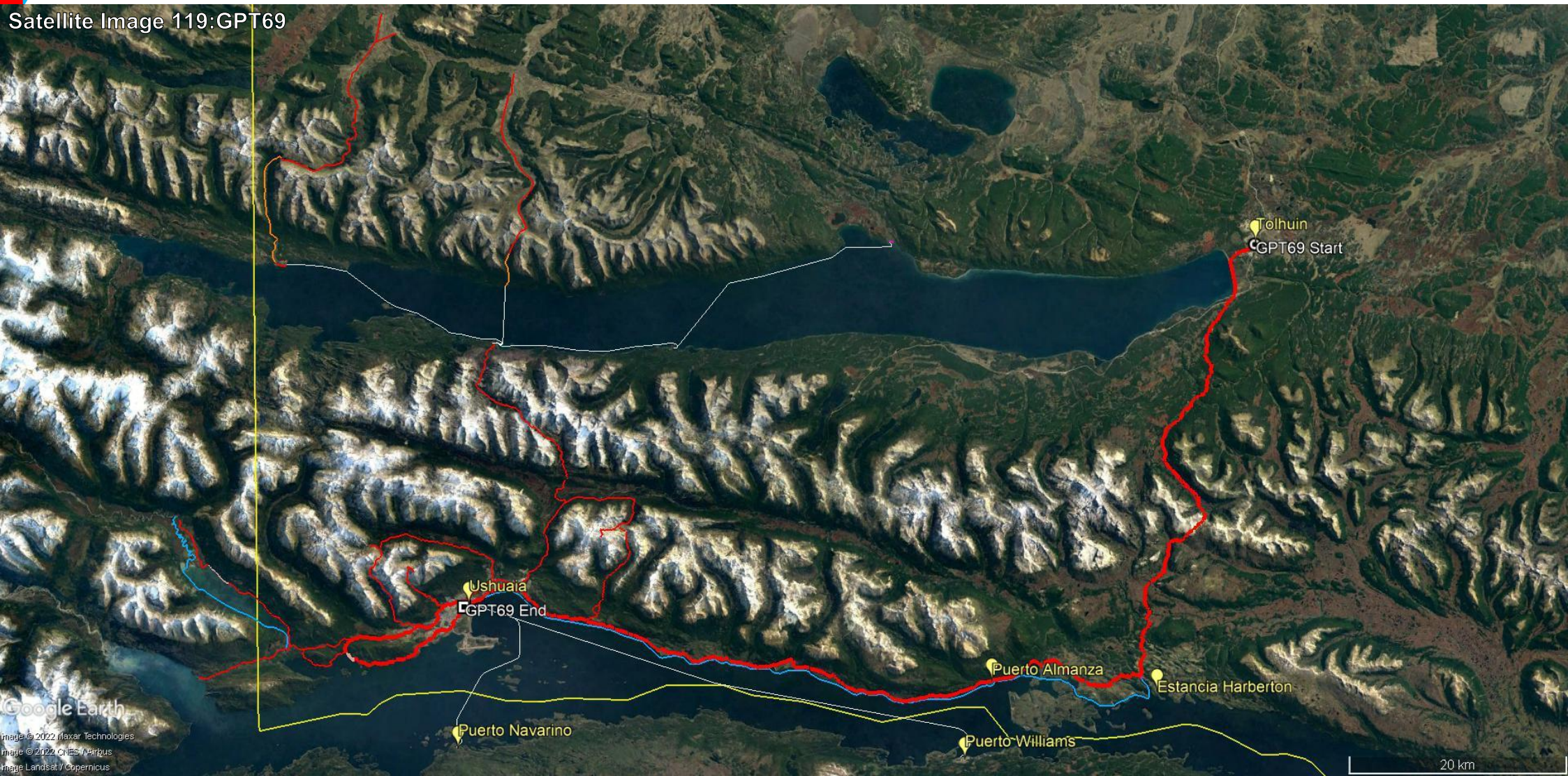


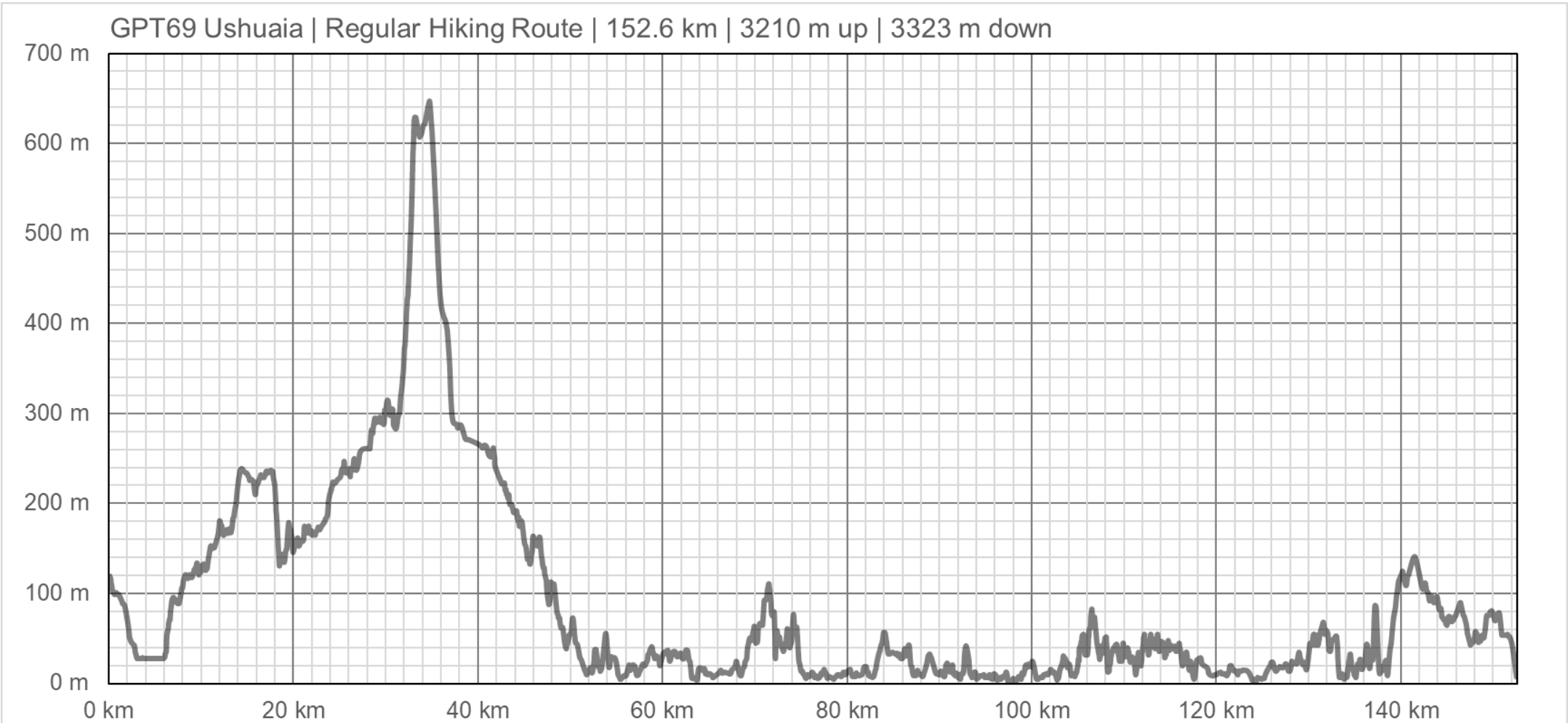
Elevation Profile 107: GPT68 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.74 GPT69: Ushuaia

GPT69: Ushuaia				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	L: Tierra del Fuego		Total	**152.6 km**	**41 h**	**152.6 km**	**41 h**
Region	Argentina & Chile: Tierra del Fuego & Magellanes (XII)		Trails (TL)	50.9 km	33.3%	50.9 km	33.3%
Start	Tolhuin		Minor Roads (MR)	69.6 km	45.6%	69.6 km	45.6%
Finish	Ushuaia		Primary Roads (PR)	17.9 km	11.7%	17.9 km	11.7%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	14.3 km	9.3%	14.3 km	9.3%
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Maybe: Oct, Nov, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT64, GPT65H, GPT66, GPT67, GPT68		Investigation (I)	(1.1 km)	(0.7%)	(1.1 km)	(0.7%)
Options	304 km (8 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	3 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting						
Character	Wetland, Subpolar Forest, Alpine Terrain, Sea Coast, Glaciers, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Possibly Impassable						

Table 142: GPT69 Section Summary


Satellite Image 119:GPT69
Tolhuin
GPT69 Start
Ushuaia
GPT69 End
Puerto Almanza
Estancia Harberton
Puerto Navarino
Puerto Williams
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image Landsat / Copernicus
20 km



Elevation Profile 108: GPT69 Regular Route

2.5.74.1 Links to other Resources

Senderos de Argentina: Guia Edicion 2015/2015

https://1drv.ms/b/s!AqyuoYQXhSEShdoJBZBYO-1j4faAtg

https://www.dropbox.com/s/rc7y1tfdz9qcppt/senderos-de-patagonia-guia-oficial-2015-2016.pdf?dl=0

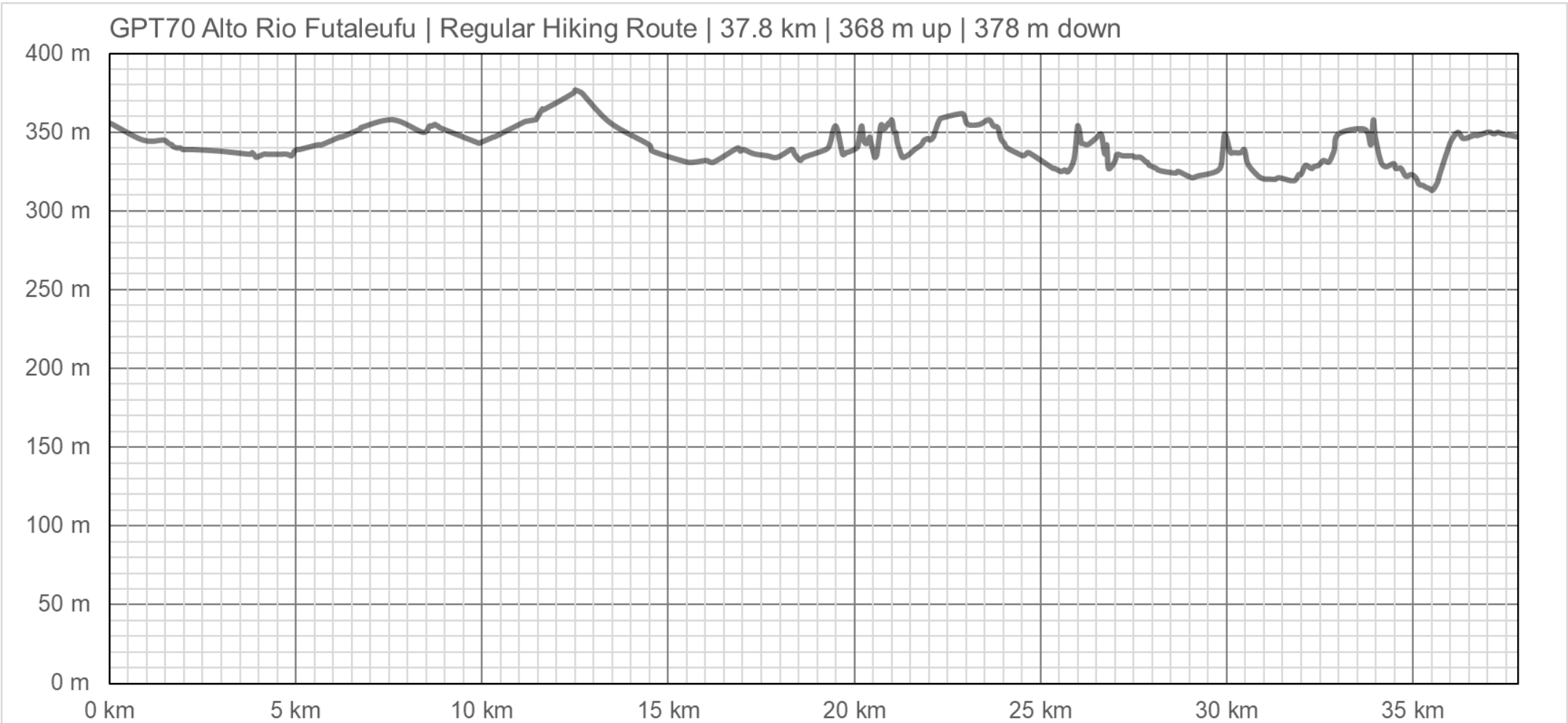
2.5.75 GPT70: Alto Río Futaleufú

GPT70: Alto Rio Futaleufu					Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	M: Sector Yelcho		Total	**37.8 km**	**9 h**	**39.6 km**	**8 h**
Region	Argentina & Chile: Chubut & Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Aldea Escolar		Minor Roads (MR)	11.6 km	30.7%	0.1 km	0.3%
Finish	Villa Futaleufú		Primary Roads (PR)	26.2 km	69.3%	13.6 km	34.3%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.1 km	0.2%
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT25H, GPT25P, GPT26, GPT71, GPT72		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	0 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**25.8 km**	**65.2%**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		25.8 km	65.2%
Difficulty	1 (of 5)	2 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ←→	Both ←→		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	-						

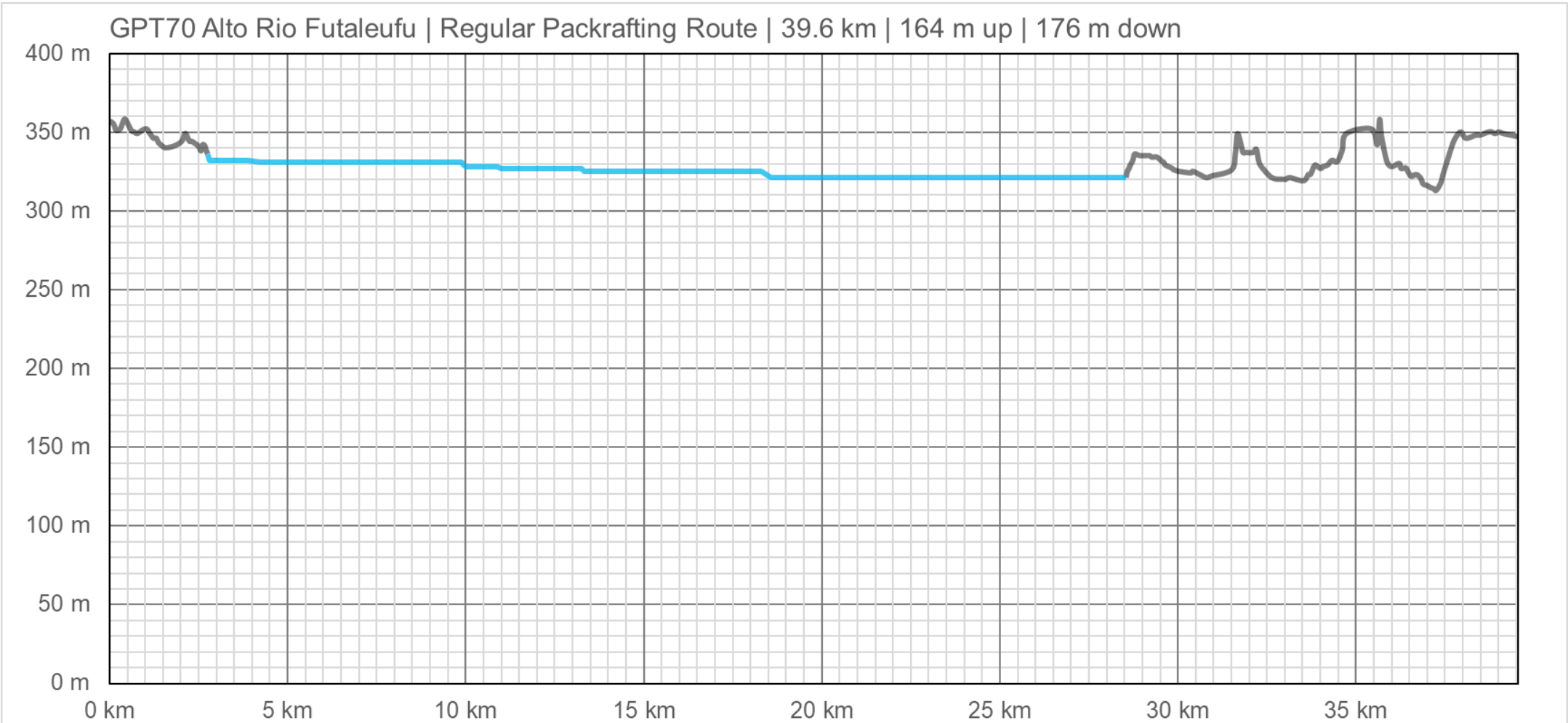
Table 143: GPT70 Section Summary

Satellite Image 120:GPT70





Elevation Profile 109: GPT70 Regular Hiking Route

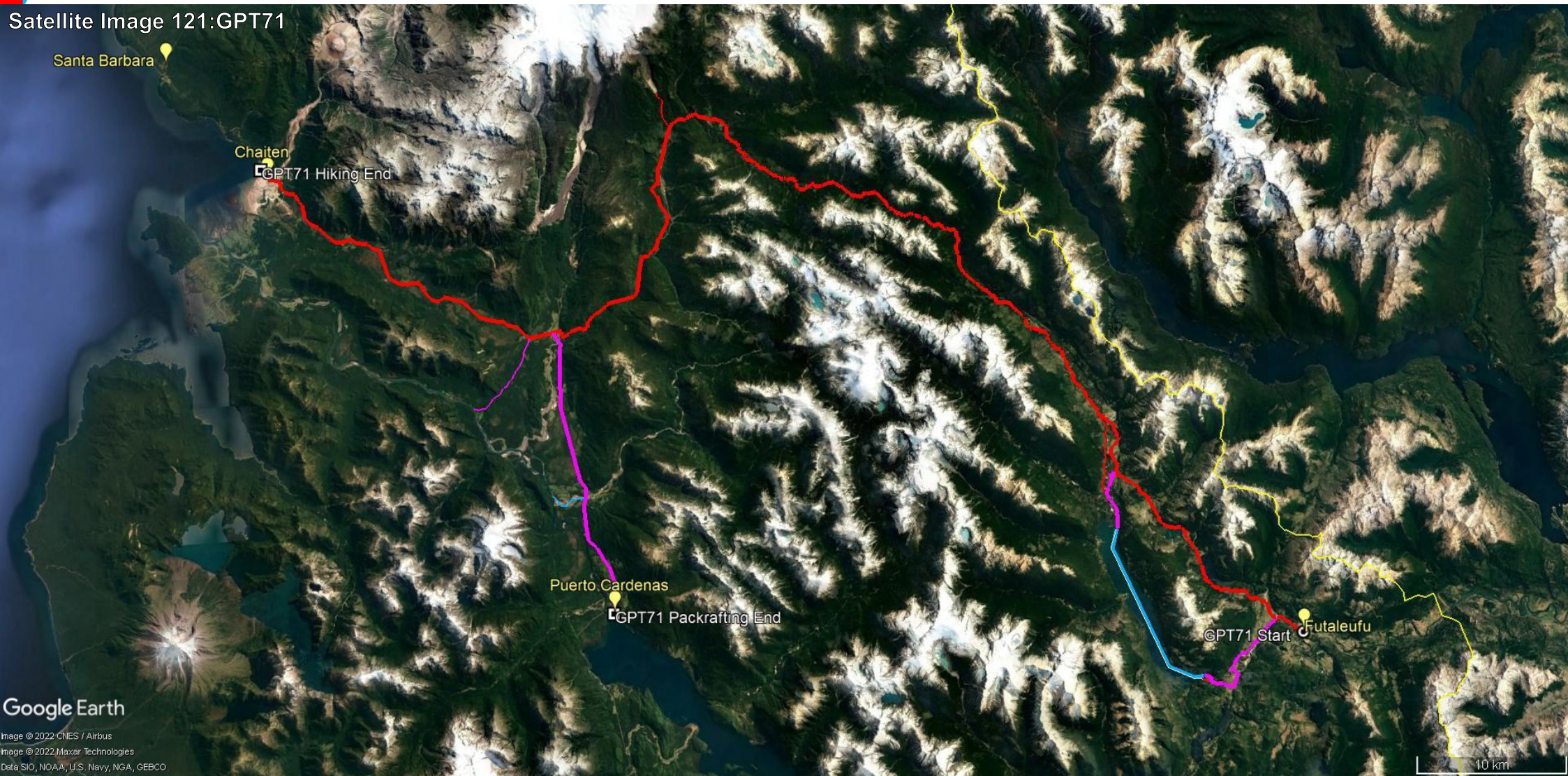


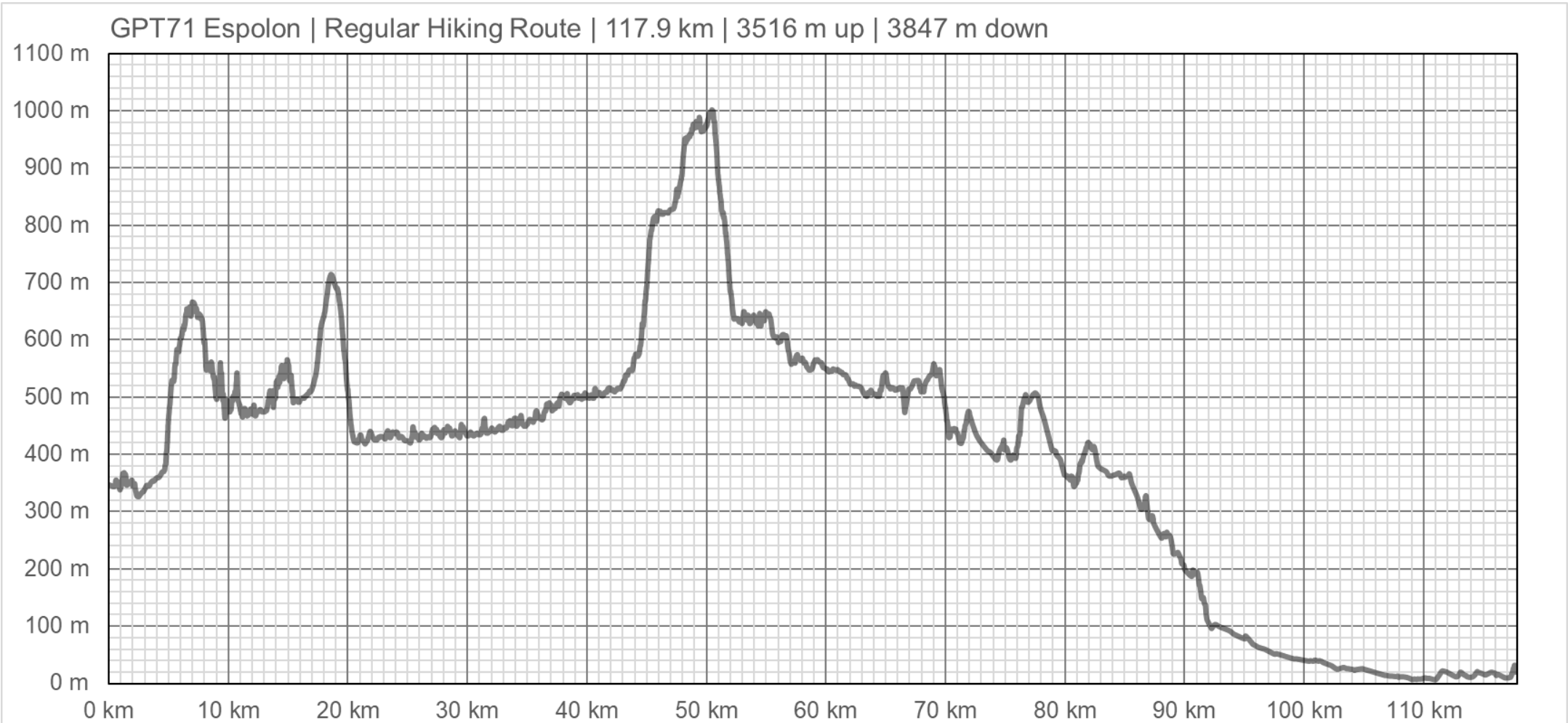
Elevation Profile 110: GPT70 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.76 GPT71: Espolón

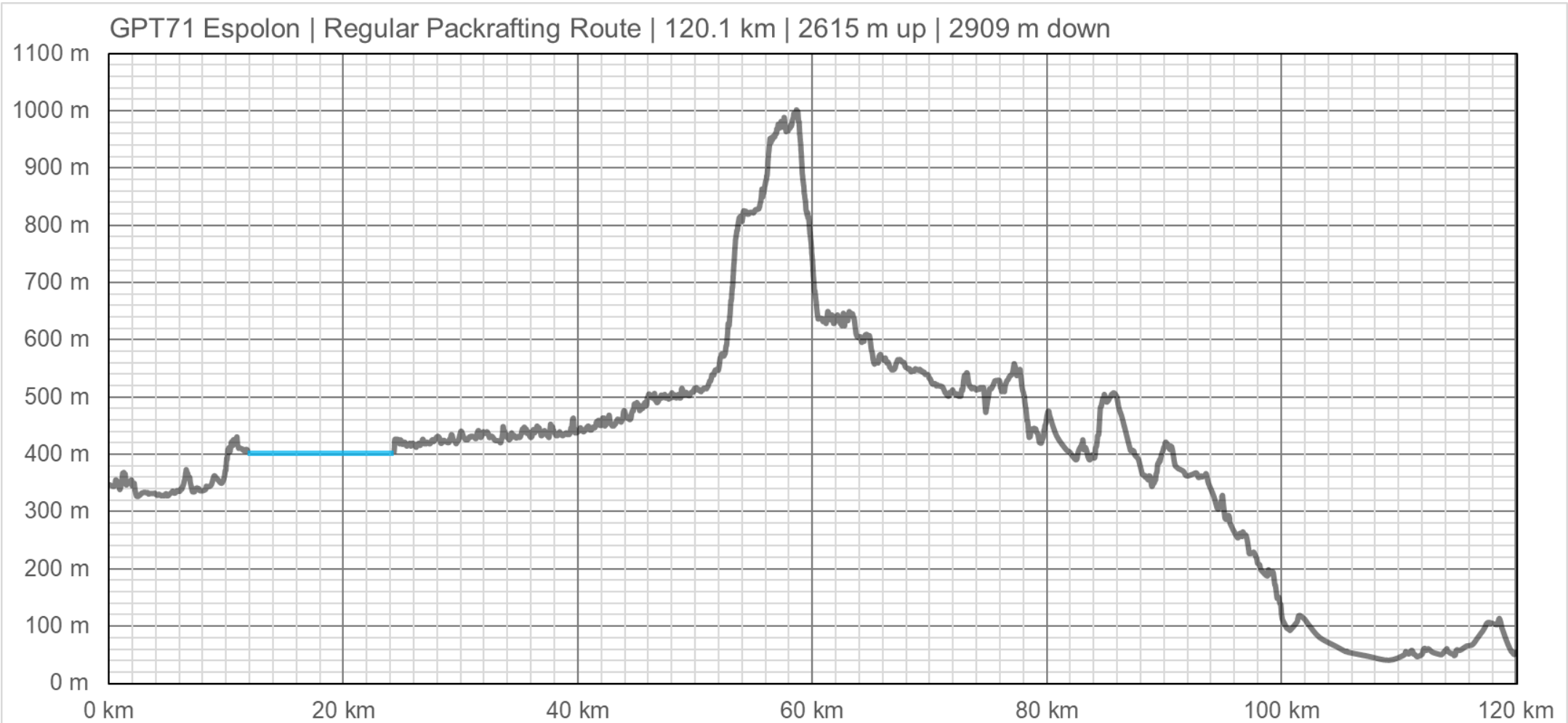
GPT71: Espolon				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	M: Sector Yelcho		Total	**117.9 km**	**34 h**	**120.1 km**	**33 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	48.9 km	41.5%	36.7 km	30.6%
Start	Villa Futaleufú		Minor Roads (MR)	43.4 km	36.8%	51.3 km	42.7%
Finish	Puerto Cárdenas, Chaitén		Primary Roads (PR)	25.6 km	21.7%	19.7 km	16.4%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT70, GPT72, GPT73P, GPT74P, GPT76		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	35 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**12.5 km**	**10.4%**
Attraction	3 (of 5)	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	4 (of 5)	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		12.5 km	10.4%
Direction	Both ←→	Both ←→		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Lake Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable						

Table 144: GPT71 Section Summary


Satellite Image 121:GPT71
Santa Barbara
Chaiten
GPT71 Hiking End
Puerto Cardenas
GPT71 Packrafting End
GPT71 Start
Futaleufu
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
10 km



Elevation Profile 111: GPT71 Regular Hiking Route

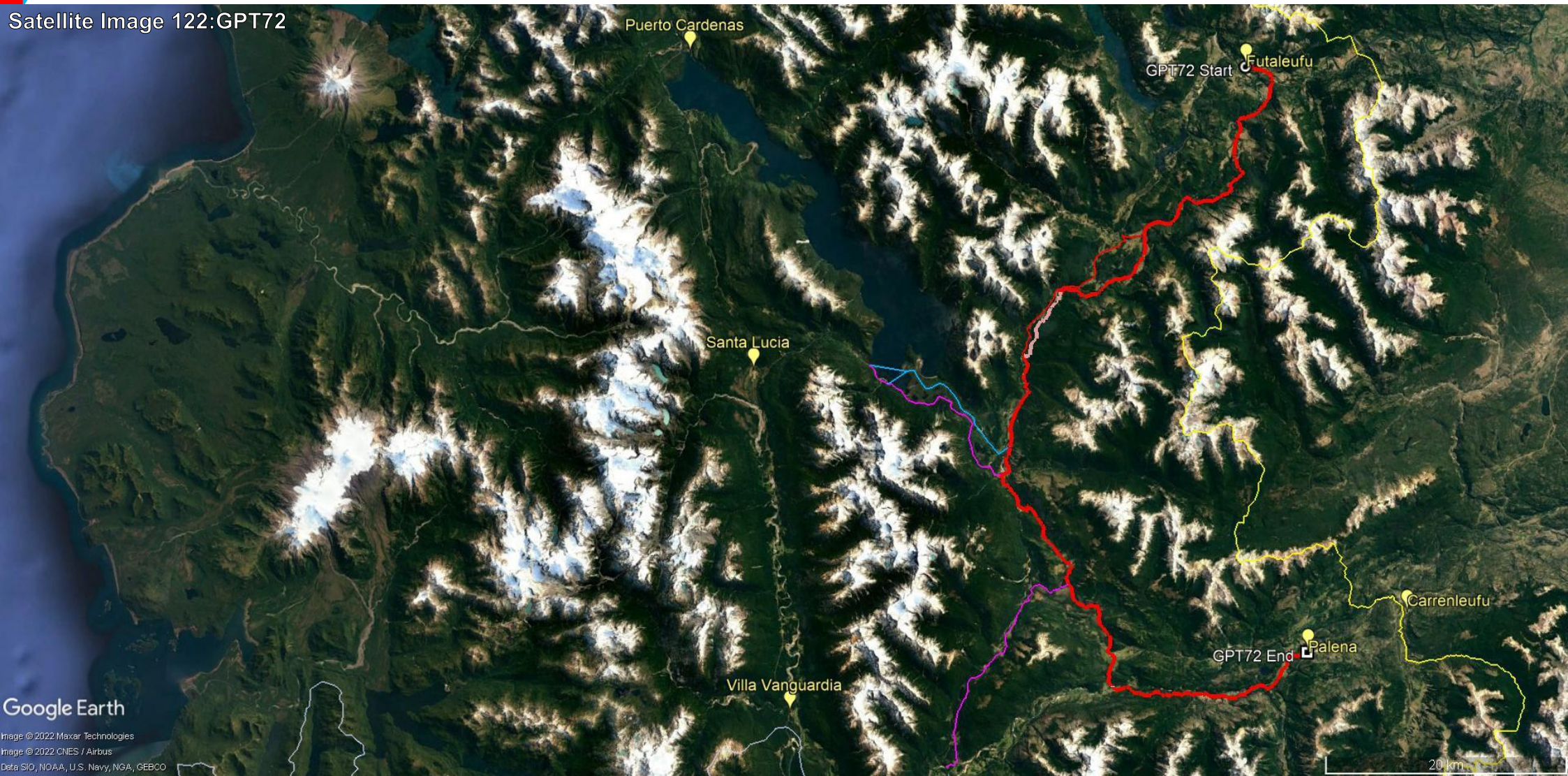


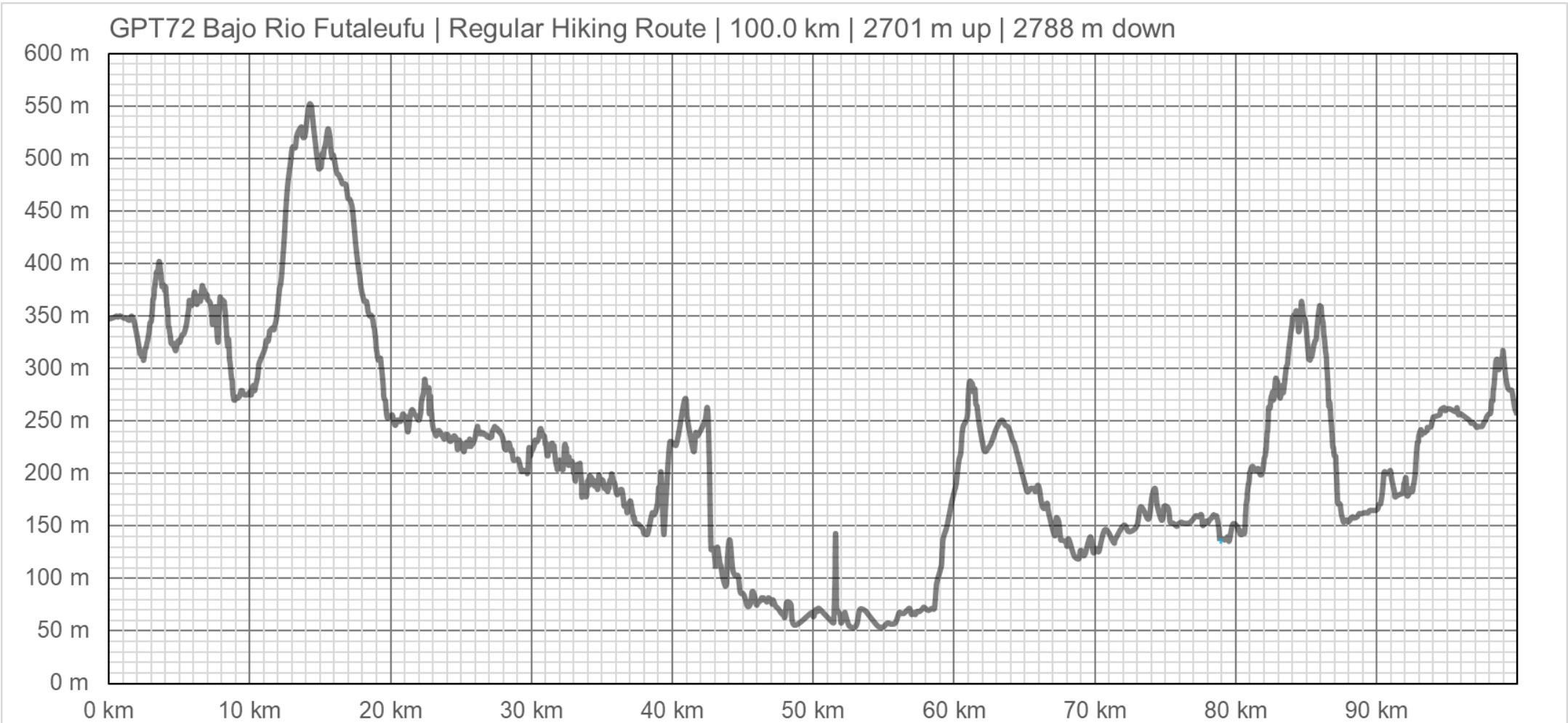
Elevation Profile 112: GPT71 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.77 GPT72: Bajo Río Futaleufú

GPT72: Bajo Rio Futaleufu				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	M: Sector Yelcho		Total	**99.9 km**	**28 h**	**99.9 km**	**28 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	21.4 km	21.5%	21.4 km	21.5%
Start	Villa Futaleufú		Minor Roads (MR)	43.2 km	43.3%	43.2 km	43.3%
Finish	Palena		Primary Roads (PR)	35.2 km	35.3%	35.2 km	35.3%
Status	Mostly Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	(0.1 km)	(0.1%)	(0.1 km)	(0.1%)
Connects to	GPT26, GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT70, GPT71, GPT73P		Investigation (I)	(7.0 km)	(7.0%)	(7.0 km)	(7.0%)
Options	75 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	1 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	-						

Table 145: GPT72 Section Summary


Satellite Image 122:GPT72
Puerto Cardenas
GPT72 Start
Futaleufu
Santa Lucia
Carrenleufu
GPT72 End
Palena
Villa Vanguardia
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
20 km



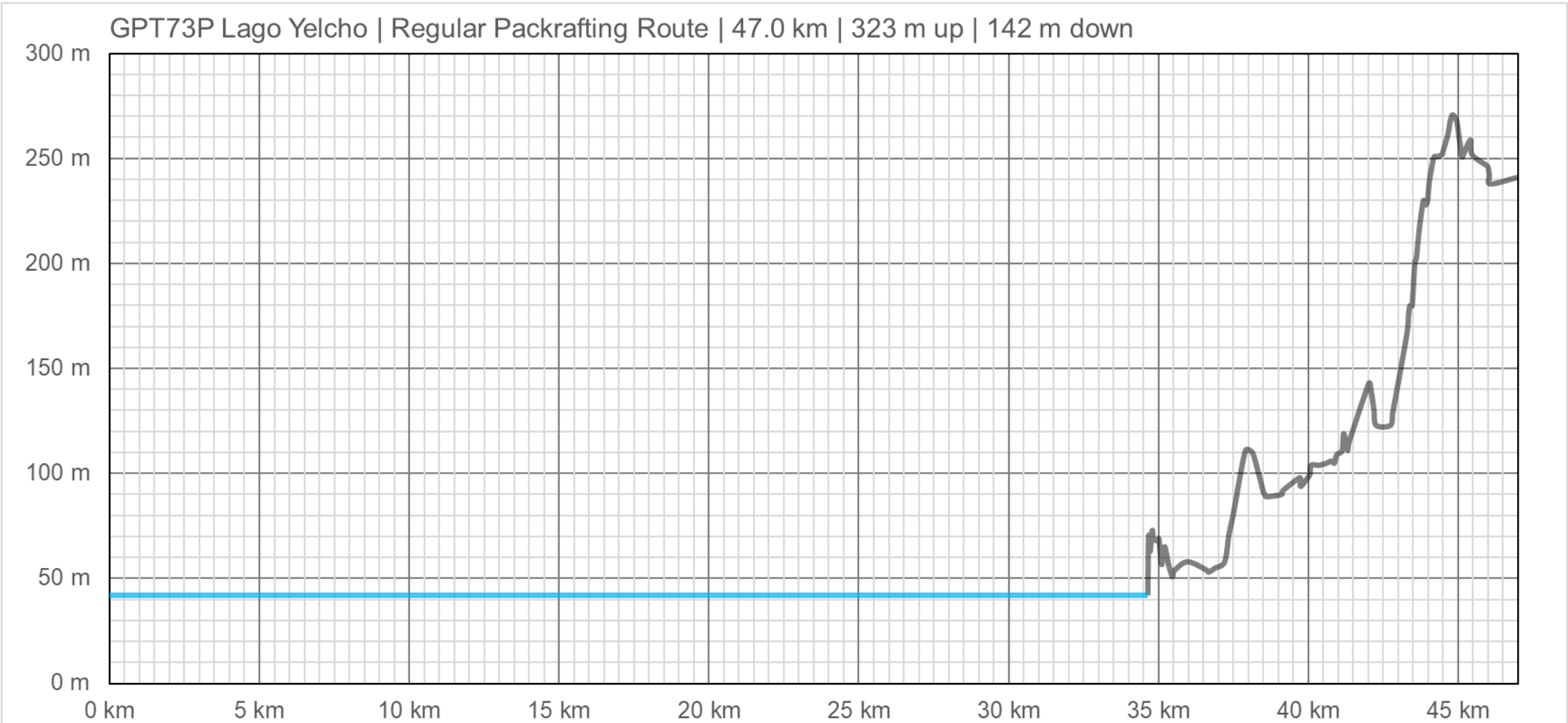
Elevation Profile 113: GPT72 Regular Route

2.5.78 GPT73P: Lago Yelcho

GPT73P: Lago Yelcho				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	M: Sector Yelcho		Total	**-**	**-**	**47.0 km**	**13 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Puerto Cárdenas		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Santa Lucía		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	12.3 km	26.3%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT71, GPT72, GPT74P, GPT75P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	51 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**34.7 km**	**73.7%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		34.7 km	73.7%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↓ Preferable due to predominant wind direction						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Lake Packrafting, Road Walking						
Challenges	-						

Table 146: GPT73P Section Summary


Satellite Image 123:GPT73P
Puerto Cardenas
GPT73P Start
Santa Lucia
GPT73P End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
10 km



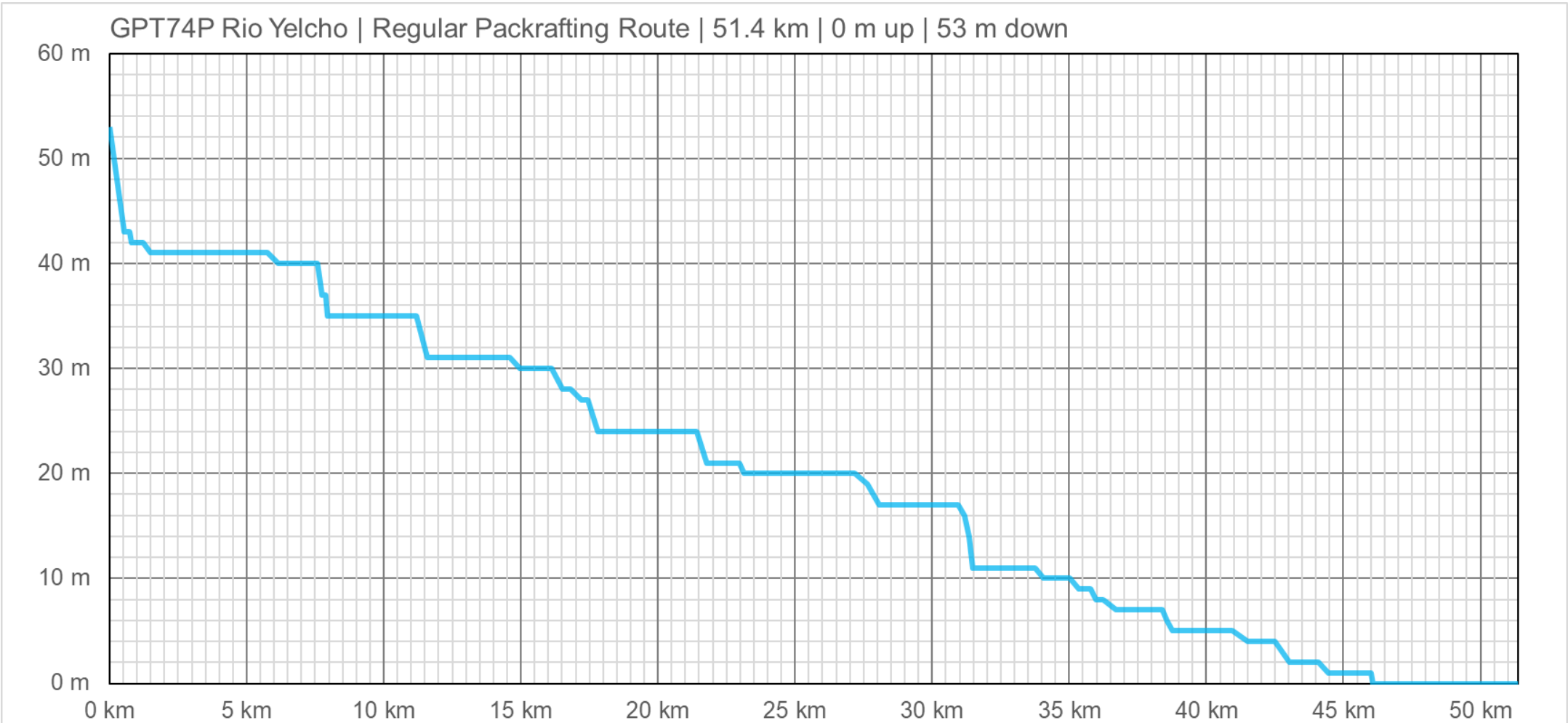
Elevation Profile 114: GPT73P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.79 GPT74P: Río Yelcho

GPT74P: Rio Yelcho				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	M: Sector Yelcho		Total	**-**	**-**	**51.4 km**	**11 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Puerto Cárdenas		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Chaitén		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Jan - May (Maybe: Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT71, GPT73P, GPT76		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	6 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**51.4 km**	**100.0%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		47.1 km	91.7%
Difficulty	-	3 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Only ←		Fjord (FJ)		4.2 km	8.3%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 147: GPT74P Section Summary


Satellite Image 124:GPT74P
Chaiten
GPT74P End
Puerto Cardenas
GPT74P Start
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
10 km



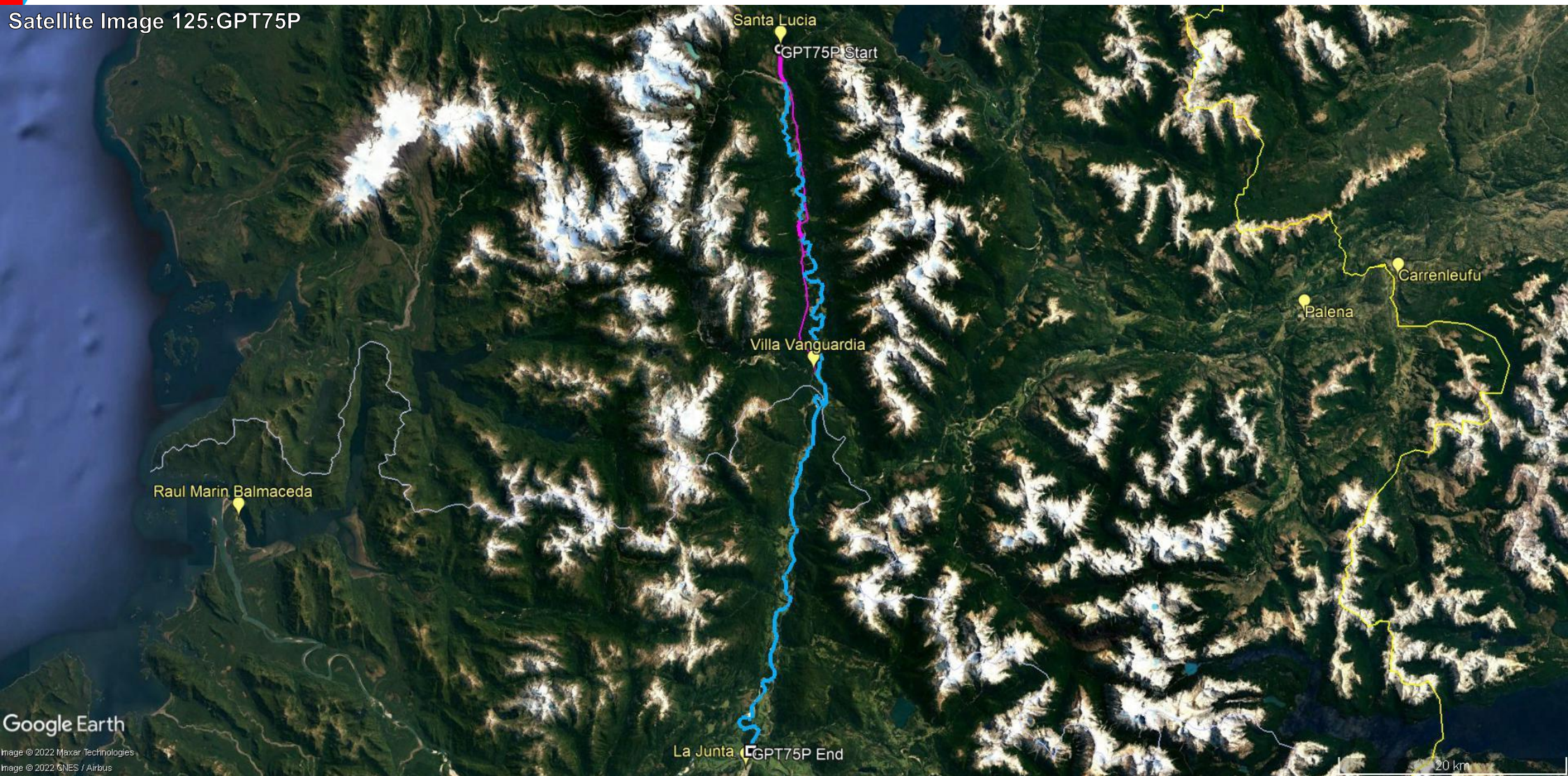
Elevation Profile 115: GPT74P Regular Packrafting Route

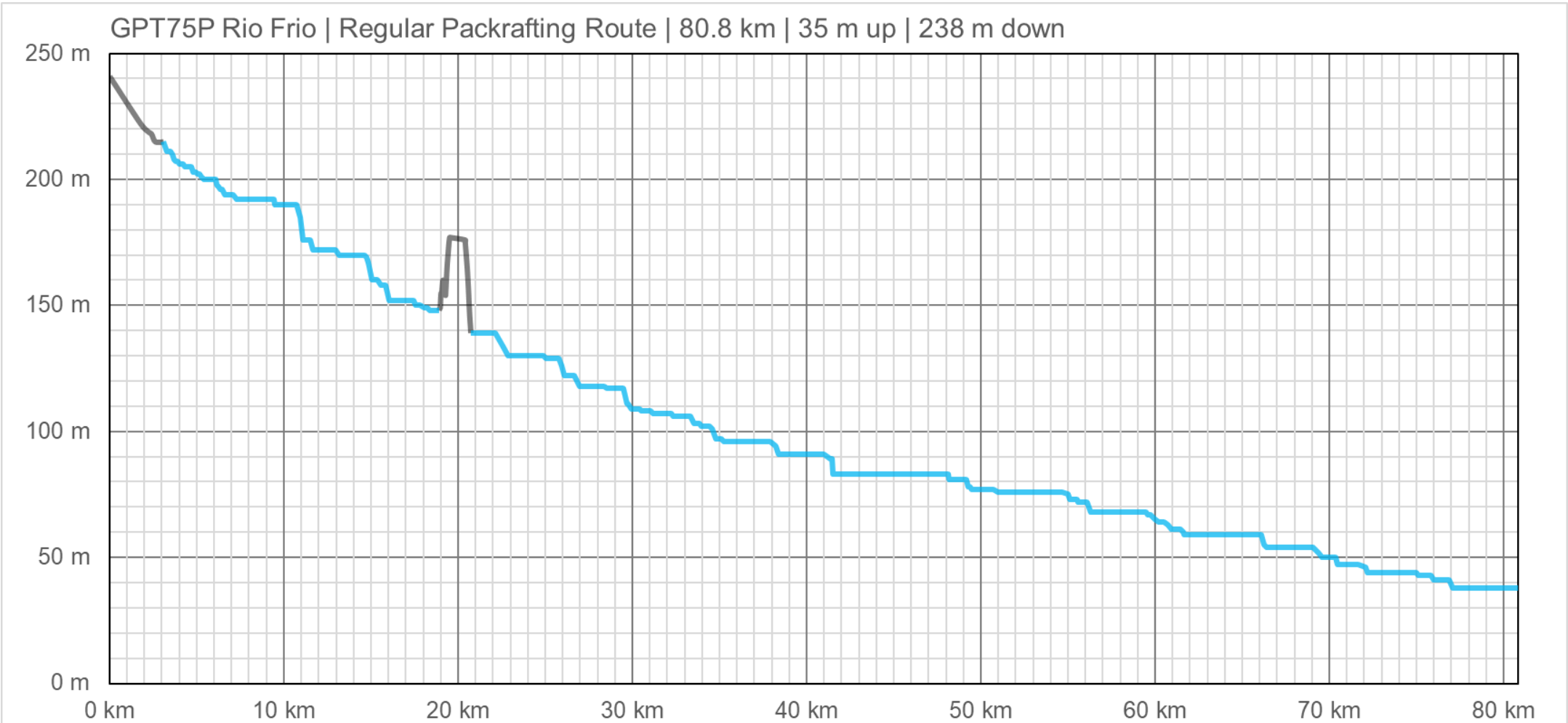
2.5.80 GPT75P: Río Frio

GPT75P: Rio Frio				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	M: Sector Yelcho		Total	**-**	**-**	**80.8 km**	**16 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Santa Lucía		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Río Palena (La Junta)		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	4.2 km	5.2%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.7 km	0.9%
Traversable	(Maybe: Sep - May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT27H, GPT28P, GPT30P, GPT27P, GPT73P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	26 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**75.9 km**	**93.9%**
Attraction	-	3 (of 5)		River (RI)		75.9 km	93.9%
Difficulty	-	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↓ More packraft use, ↑ Road walking only						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Farmland, Settlers, River Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 148: GPT75P Section Summary

Satellite Image 125:GPT75P





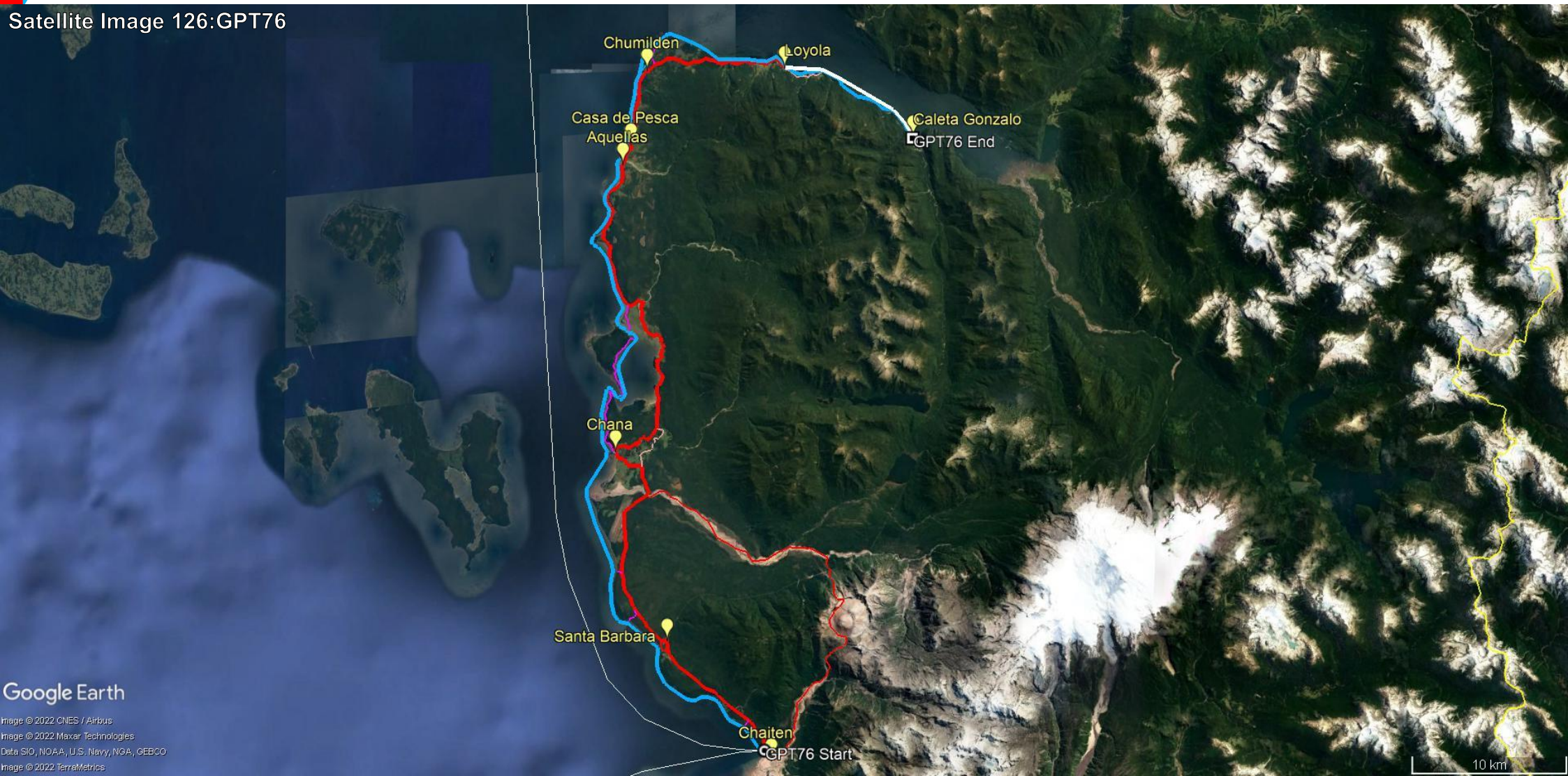
Elevation Profile 116: GPT75P Regular Packrafting Route

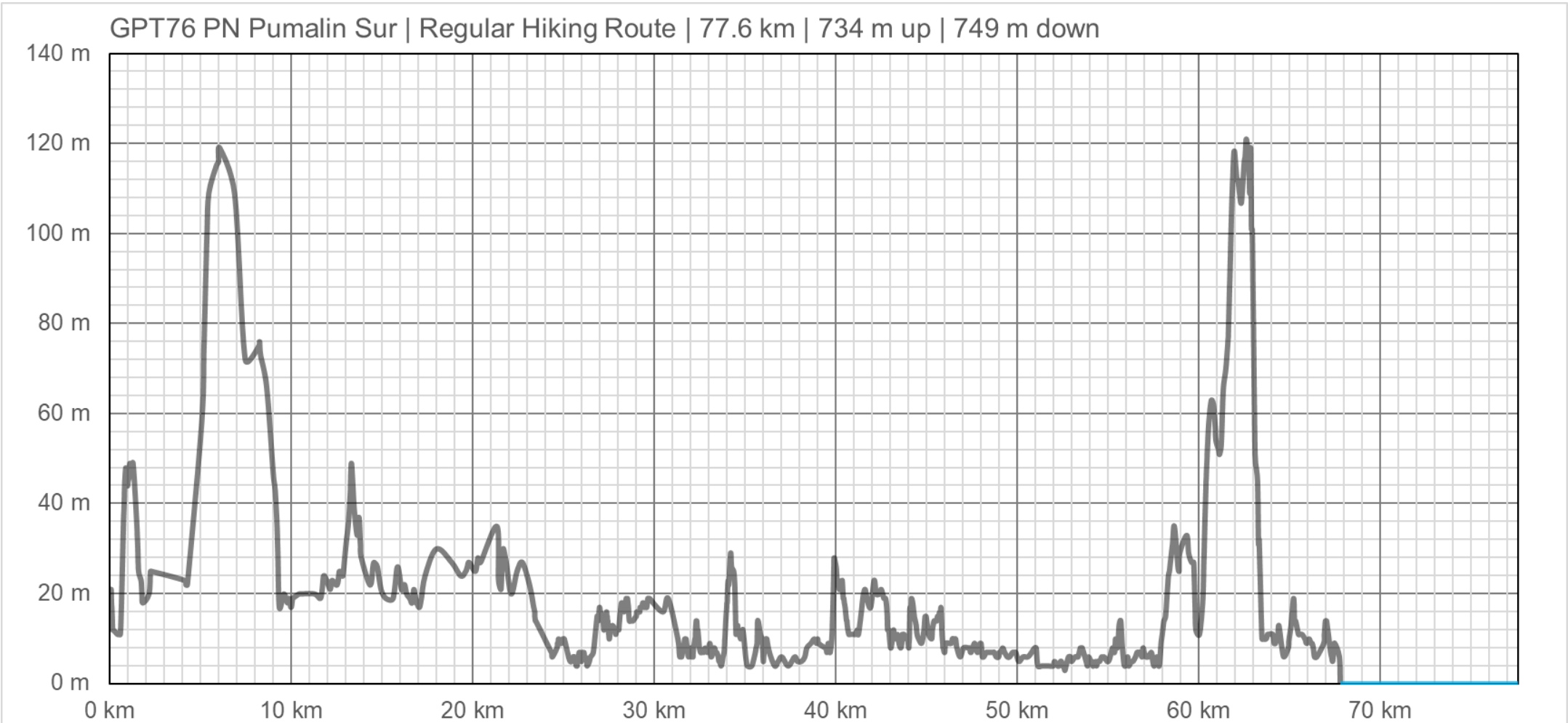
2.5.81 GPT76: PN Pumalin Sur

GPT76: PN Pumalin Sur					Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	N: Fiordos Norte		Total		**67.8 km**	**16 h**	**77.0 km**	**22 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)		20.6 km	30.5%	-	-
Start	Chaitén		Minor Roads (MR)		37.1 km	54.7%	-	-
Finish	Caleta Gonzalo		Primary Roads (PR)		10.1 km	14.9%	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)		-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)		-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)		(9.8 km)	(12.7%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT71, GPT74P, GPT77		Investigation (I)		-	-	-	-
Options	58 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)		-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting			Total on Water		**77.0 km**	**100.0%**
Attraction	2 (of 5)	4 (of 5)			River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	2 (of 5)	4 (of 5)			Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑			Fjord (FJ)		77.0 km	100.0%
Comment	Hiking: ↑ Recommended to facilitate boat transfer Packrafting: ↑ Preferable due preceding section GPT74P Rio Yelcho and predominant wind direction							
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, Fjord Packrafting							
Challenges	Demanding River Fords							

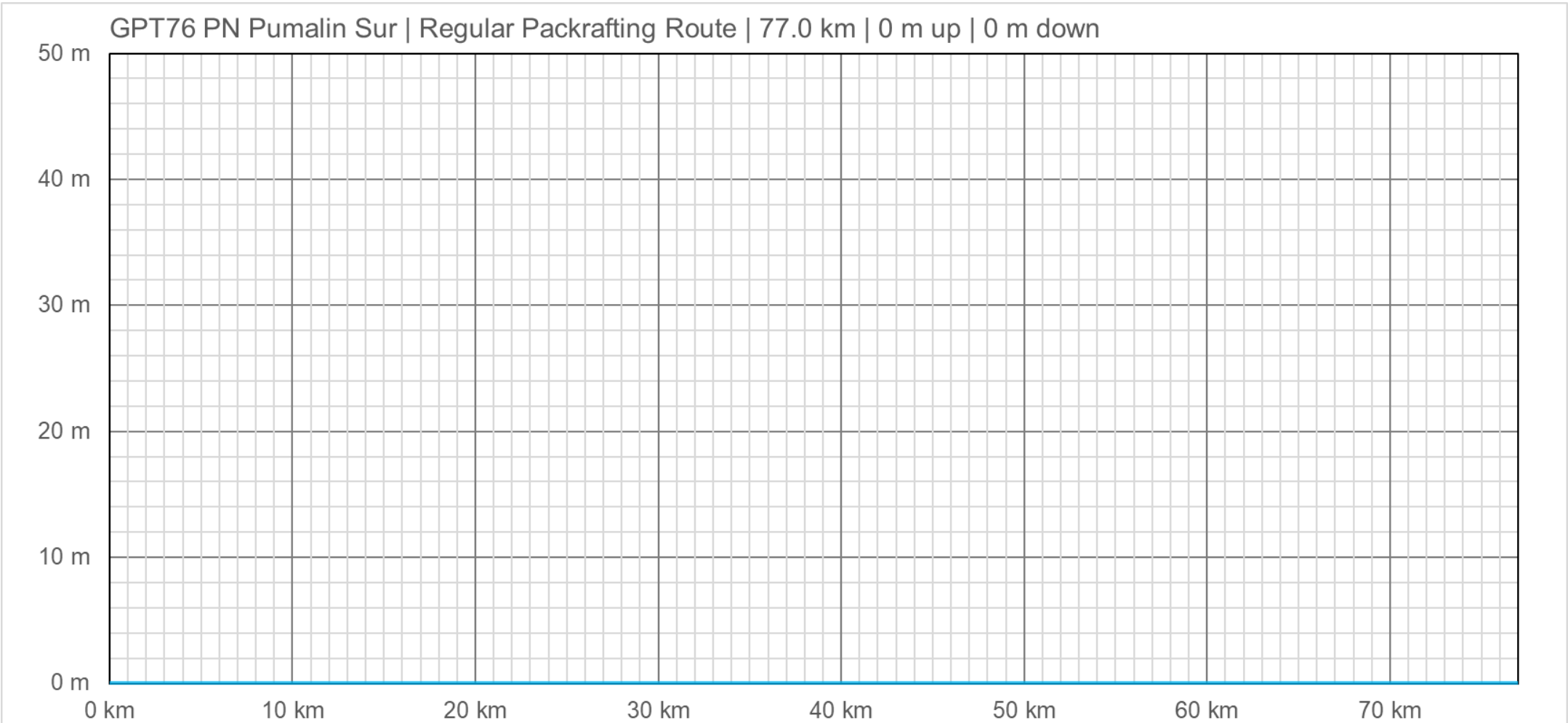
Table 149: GPT76 Section Summary

Satellite Image 126:GPT76





Elevation Profile 117: GPT76 Regular Hiking Route

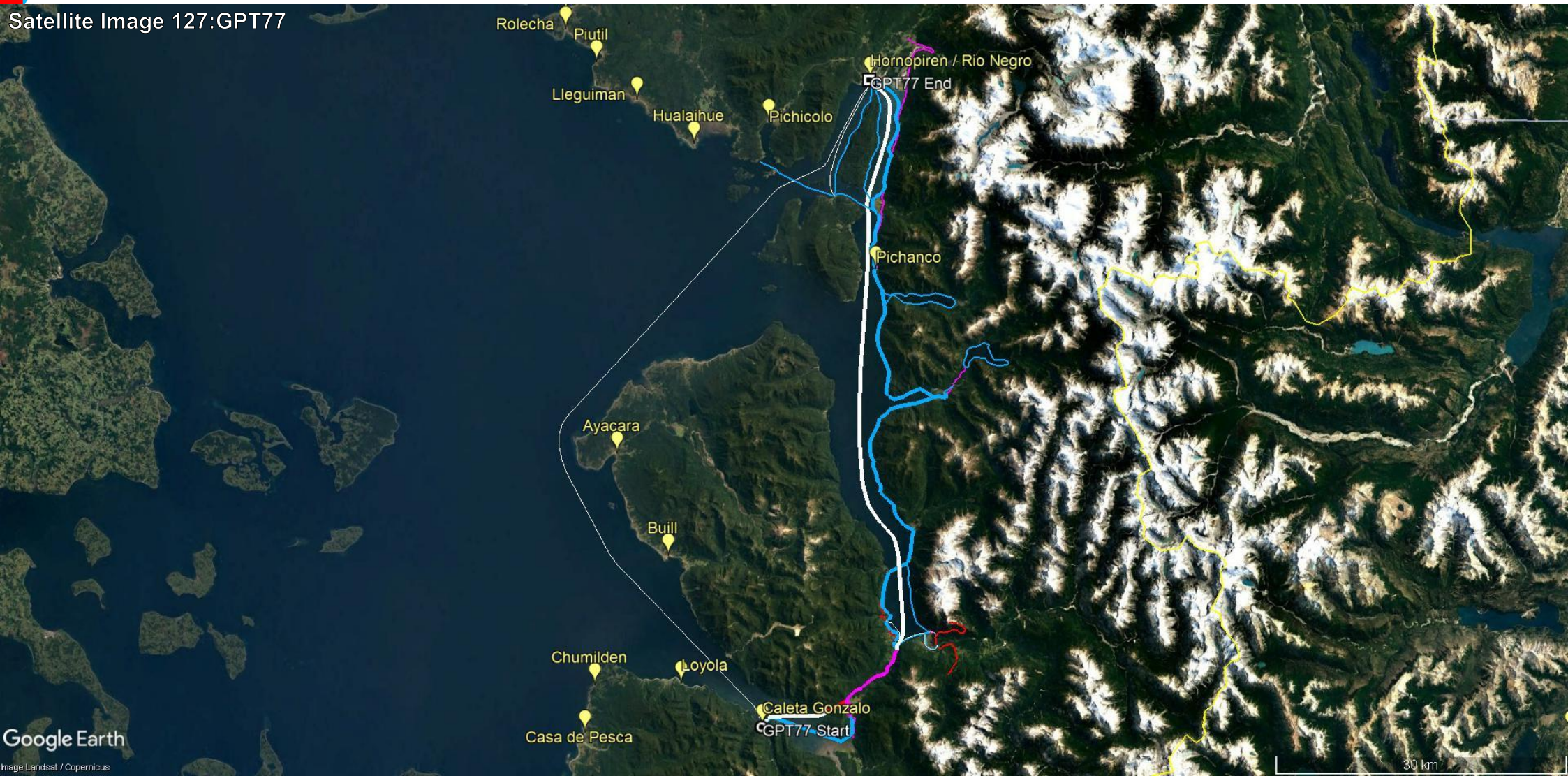


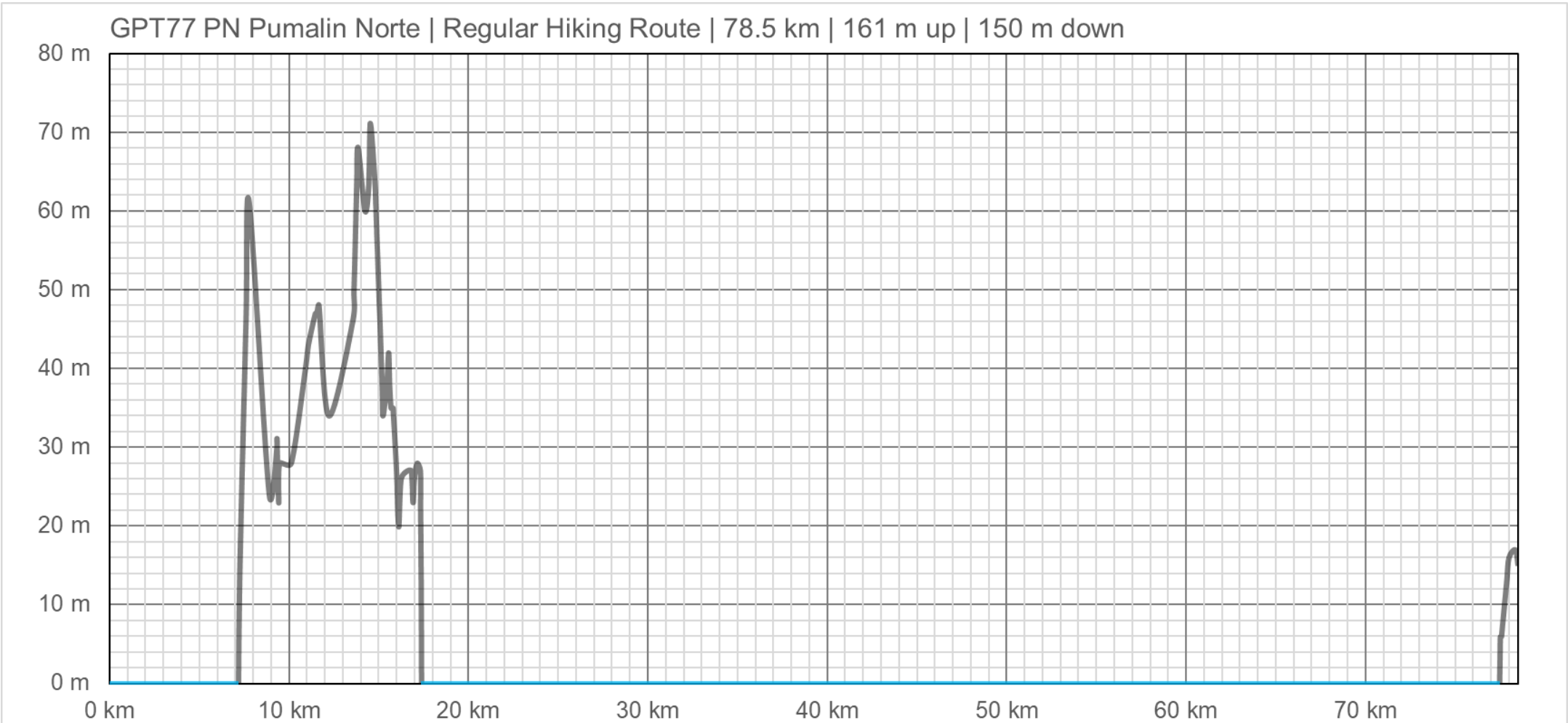
Elevation Profile 118: GPT76 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.82 GPT77: PN Pumalin Norte

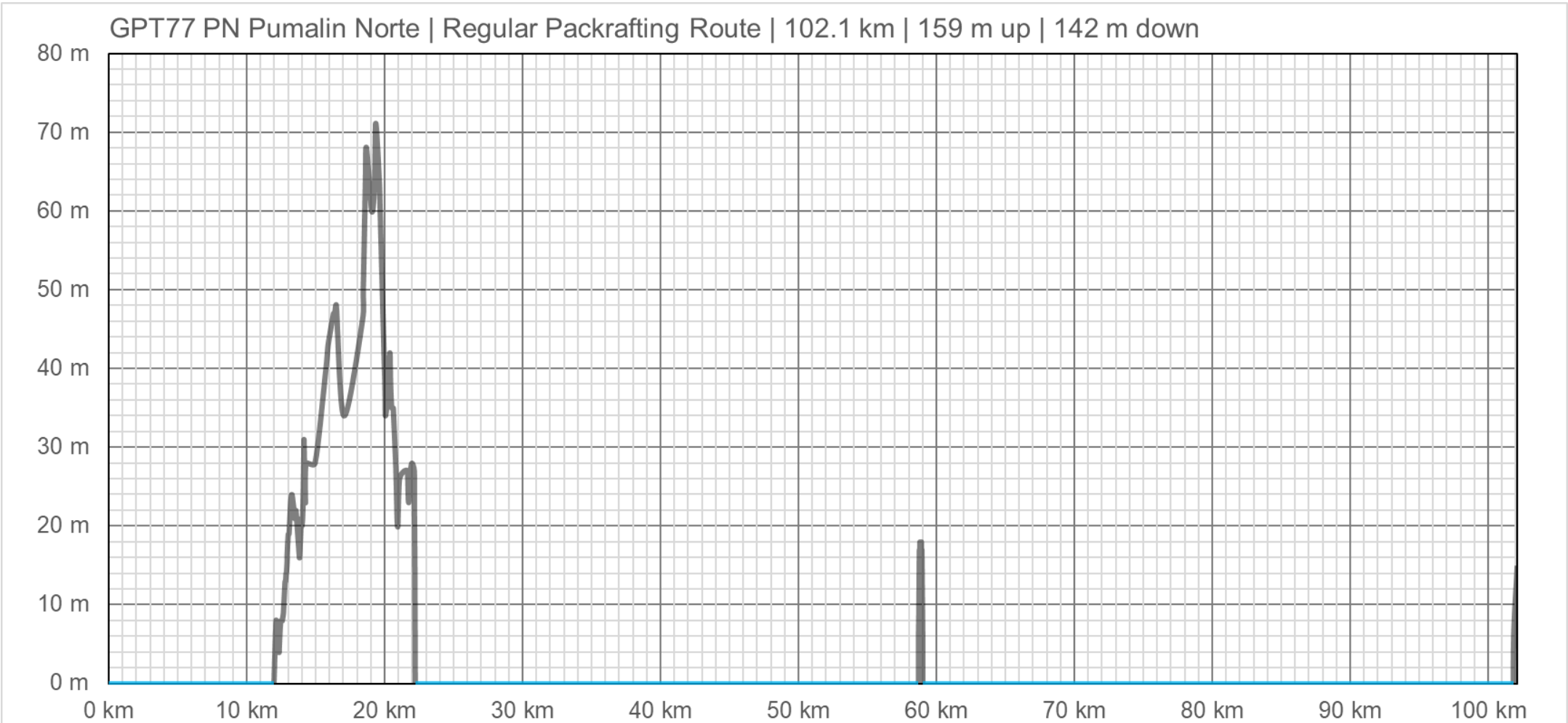
GPT77: PN Pumalin Norte				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	N: Fiordos Norte		Total	**11.2 km**	**3 h**	**102.1 km**	**29 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	-	-	0.3 km	0.3%
Start	Caleta Gonzalo		Minor Roads (MR)	1.0 km	9.2%	2.5 km	2.4%
Finish	Hornopirén		Primary Roads (PR)	10.2 km	90.8%	8.1 km	7.9%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	(67.3 km)	(85.7%)	-	-
Connects to	GPT76, GPT78H		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	152 km (5 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**91.3 km**	**89.4%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		91.3 km	89.4%
Comment	Hiking: Ferry Packrafting: ↑ Preferable due preceding section GPT74P Rio Yelcho and predominant wind direction						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Hot Springs, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	-						

Table 150: GPT77 Section Summary


Satellite Image 127:GPT77
Rolecha
Piutil
Lleguiman
Hualaihue
Pichicolo
Hornopiren / Rio Negro
GPT77 End
Pichanco
Ayacara
Buill
Chumilden
Loyola
Caleta Gonzalo
GPT77 Start
Casa de Pesca
Google Earth
Image Landsat / Copernicus
30 km



Elevation Profile 119: GPT77 Regular Hiking Route

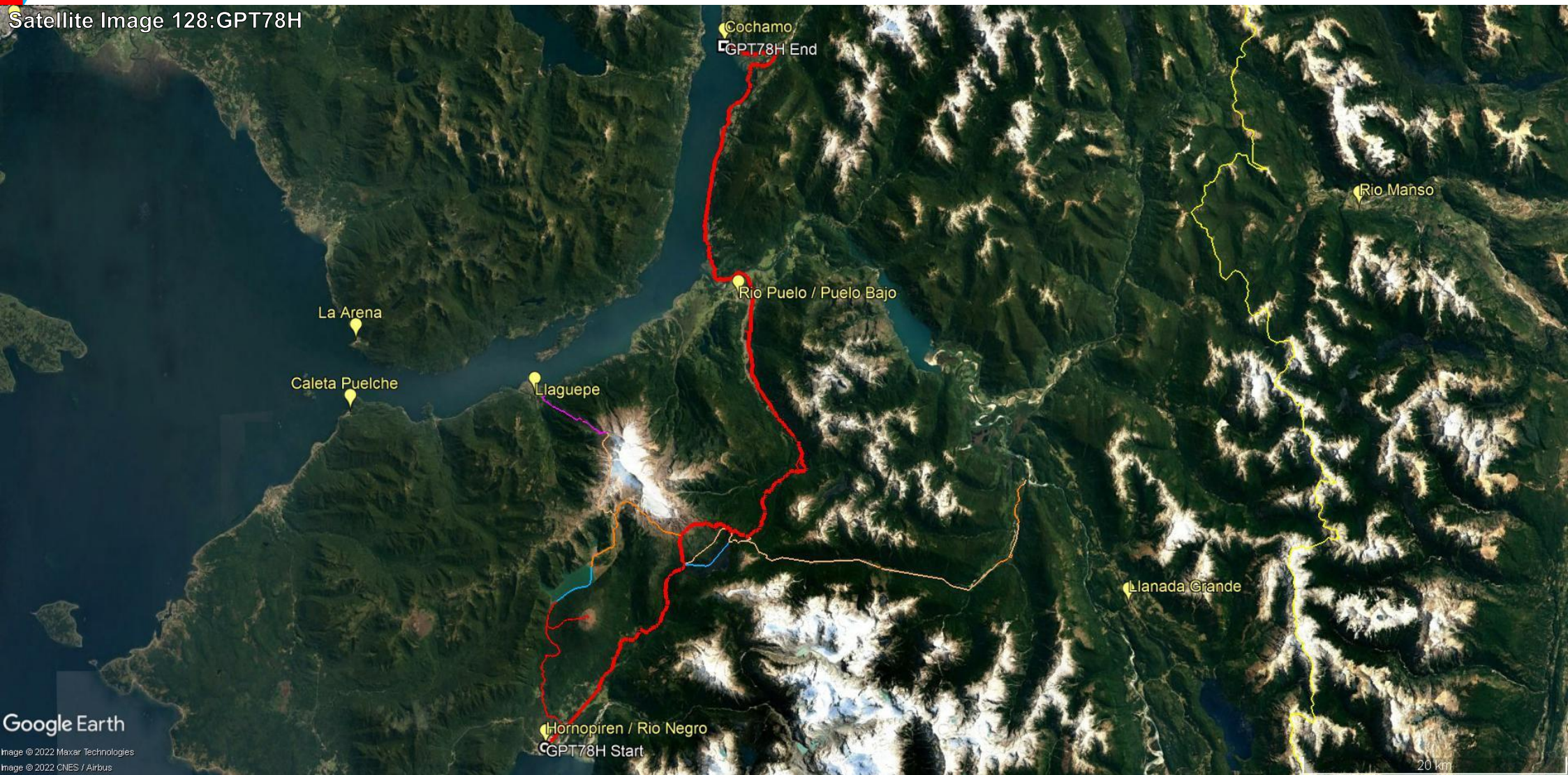


Elevation Profile 120: GPT77 Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.83 GPT78H: Volcan Yates

GPT78H: Volcan Yates				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	N: Fiordos Norte		Total	**82.8 km**	**24 h**	**82.8 km**	**24 h**
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)		Trails (TL)	28.4 km	34.3%	28.4 km	34.3%
Start	Hornopirén		Minor Roads (MR)	22.2 km	26.8%	22.2 km	26.8%
Finish	Cochamó		Primary Roads (PR)	30.2 km	36.4%	30.2 km	36.4%
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	2.1 km	2.5%	2.1 km	2.5%
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Very Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT21, GPT22, GPT77		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	93 km (6 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	4 (of 5)	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	5 (of 5)	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Farmland, Settlers, Road Walking						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required, Right-of-Way Disputes						

Table 151: GPT78H Section Summary


Satellite Image 128:GPT78H
Cochamo
GPT78H End
Rio Manso
Rio Puelo / Puelo Bajo
La Arena
Caleta Puelche
Llaguepe
Llanada Grande
Hornopiren / Rio Negro
GPT78H Start
Google Earth
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
20 km

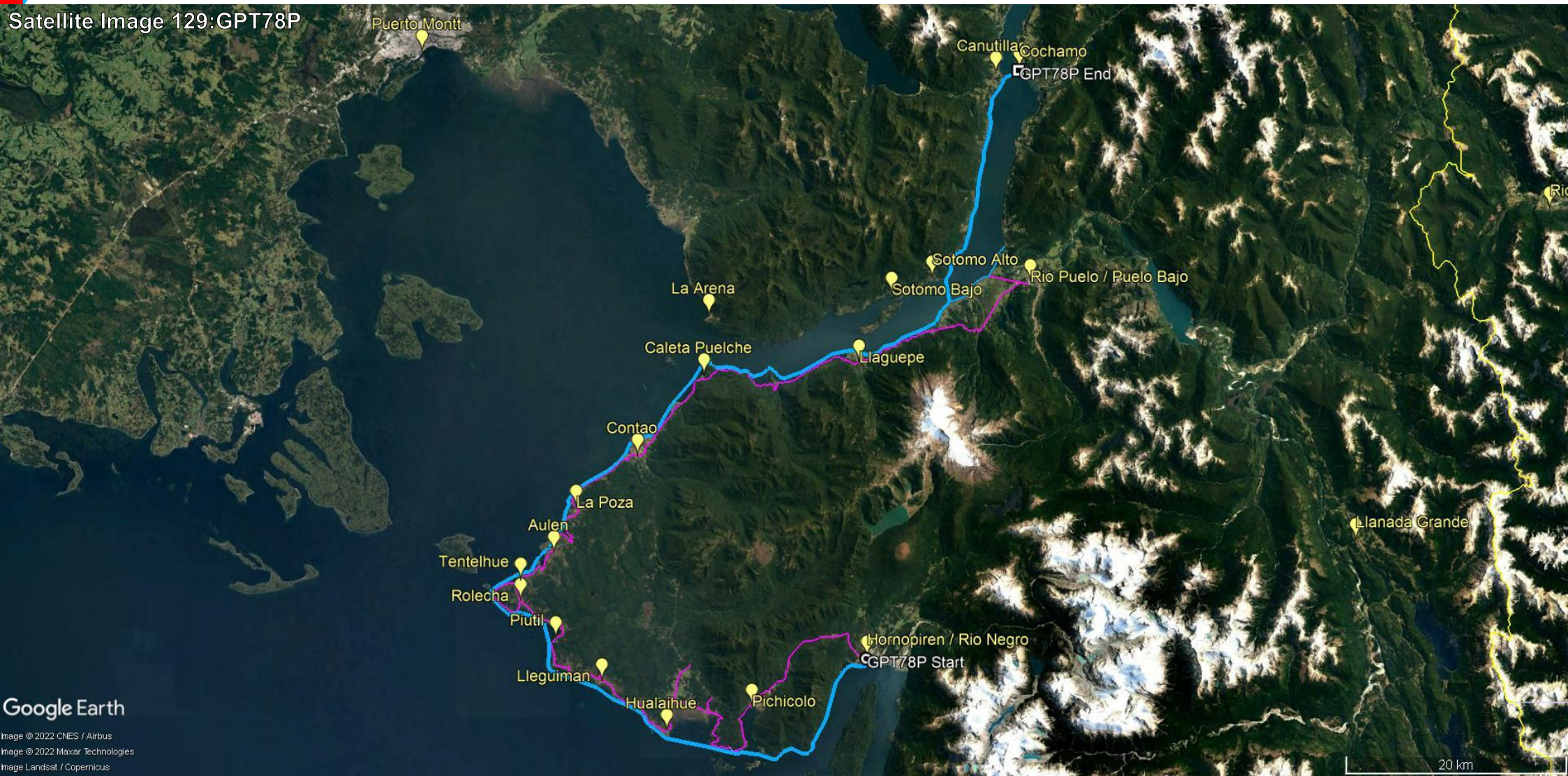


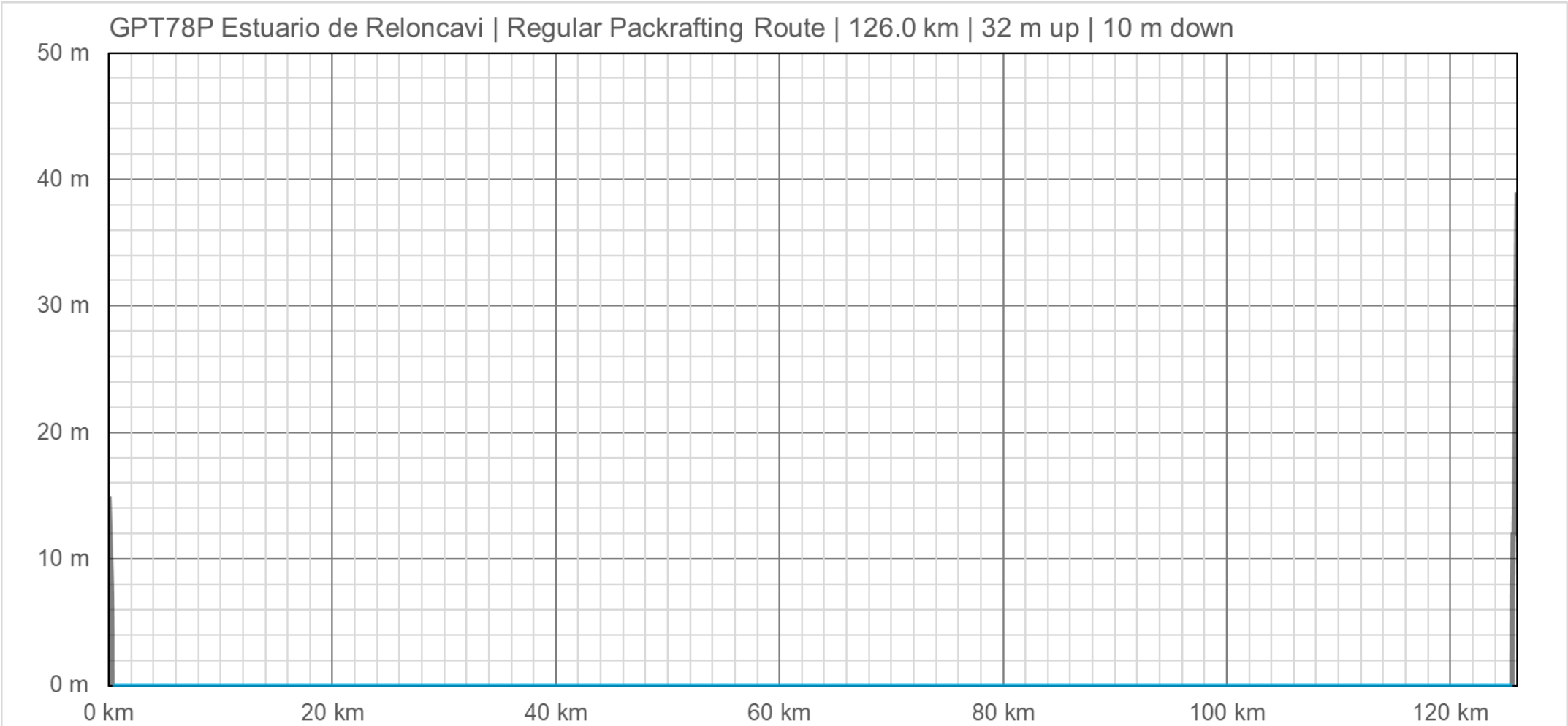
Elevation Profile 121: GPT78 Regular Route

2.5.84 GPT78P: Estuario de Reloncaví

GPT78P: Estuario Reloncavi				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	O: Campo de Hielo Norte		Total	**-**	**-**	**126.0 km**	**36 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Hornopirén		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	0.7 km	0.6%
Finish	Cochamó		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT33H, GPT80P, GPT90P, GPT91P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	152 km (Variants Only)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**125.3 km**	**99.4%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		125.3 km	99.4%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: ↑ Preferable due to predominant wind direction						
Character	Wetland, Valdivian Rain Forest, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 152: GPT78P Section Summary


Satellite Image 129:GPT78P
Puerto Montt
Canutillar
Cochamo
GPT78P End
Sotomo Alto
Rio Puelo / Puelo Bajo
Sotomo Bajo
La Arena
Caleta Puelche
Llaguepe
Contao
La Poza
Aulen
Tentelhue
Rolecha
Piutil
Hornopiren / Rio Negro
GPT78P Start
Lleguiman
Hualaihue
Pichicolo
Llanada Grande
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image Landsat / Copernicus
20 km

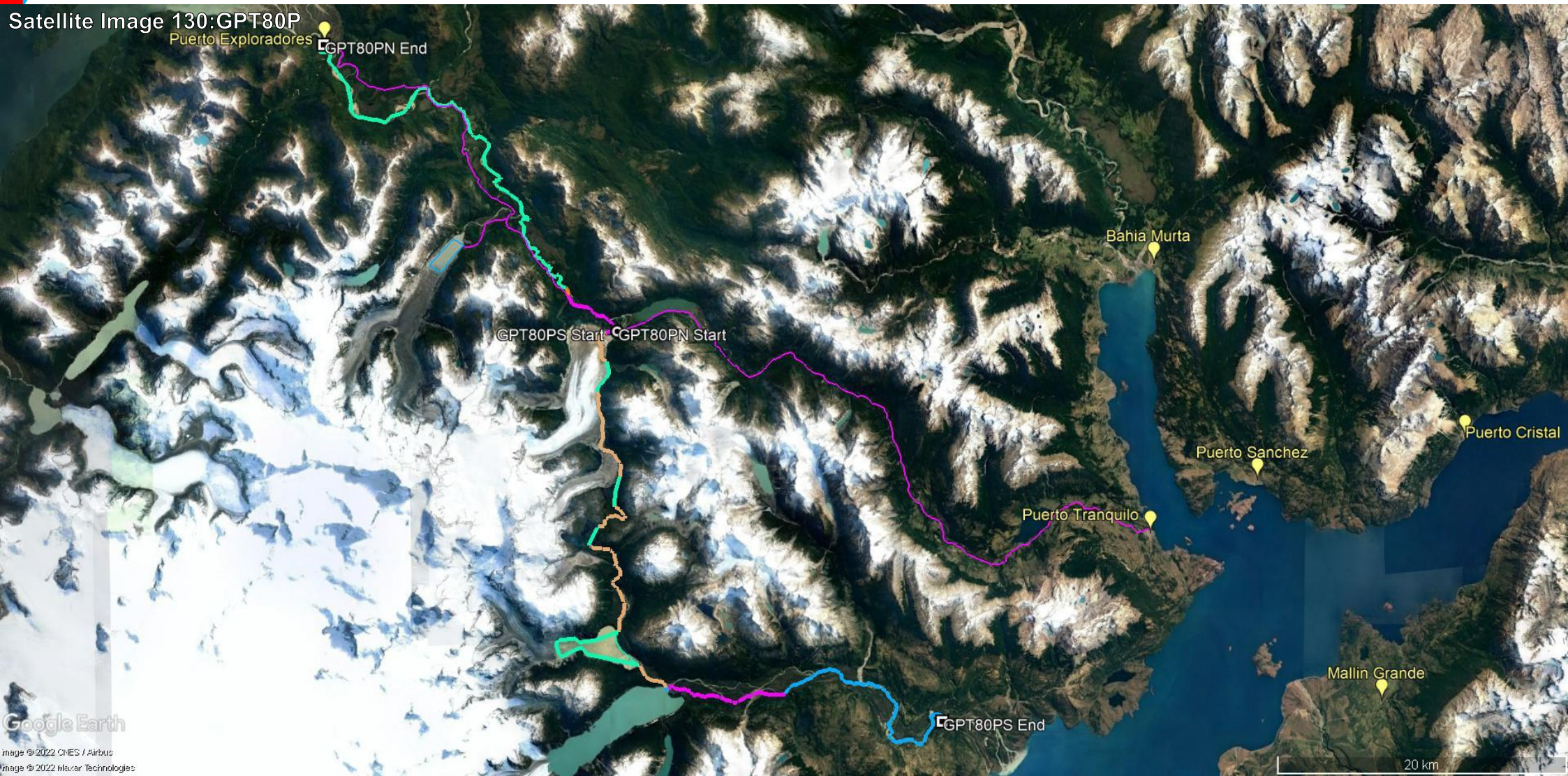


Elevation Profile 122: GPT78P Regular Packrafting Route

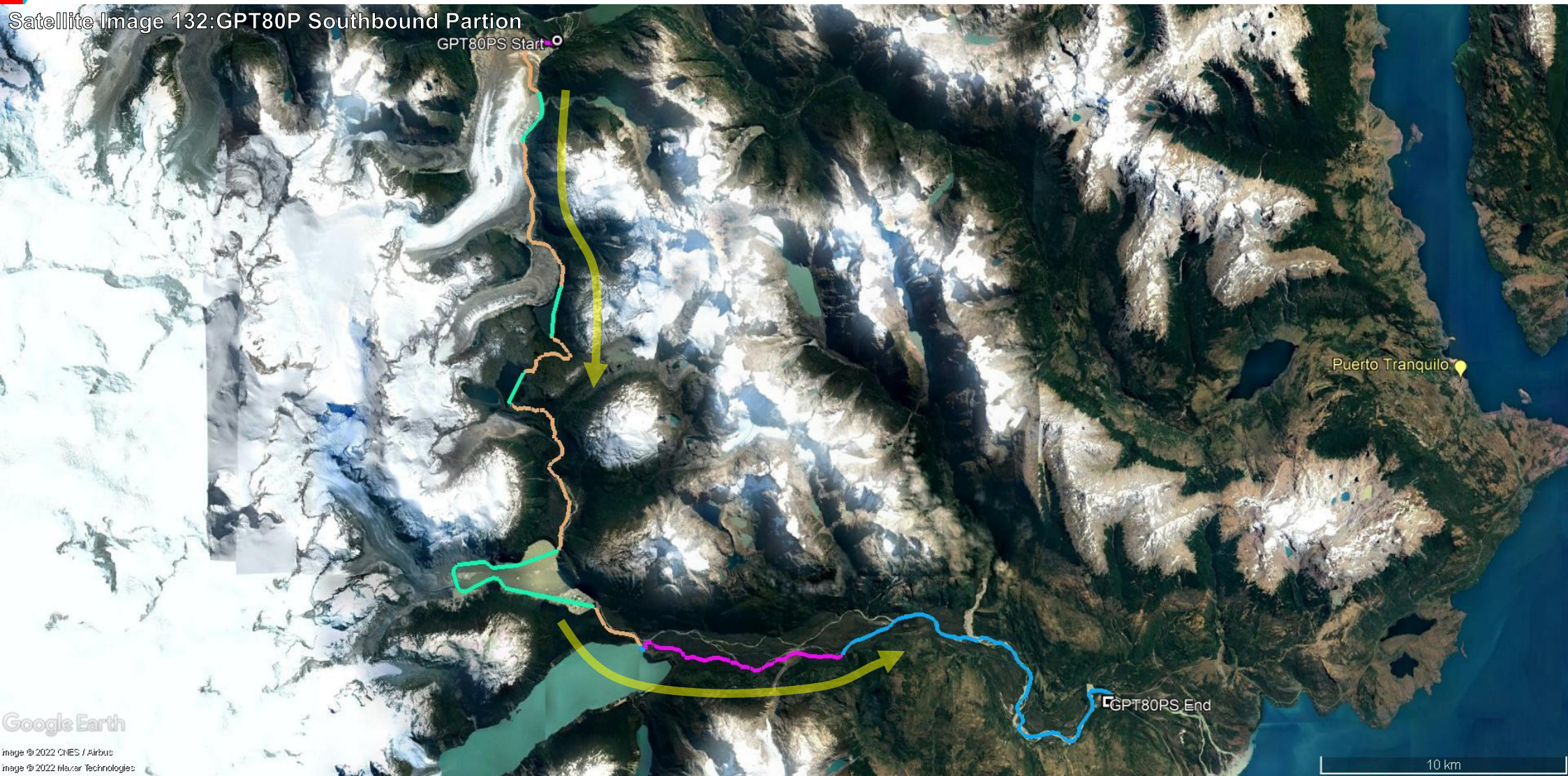
2.5.85 GPT80P: Glaciar Exploradores

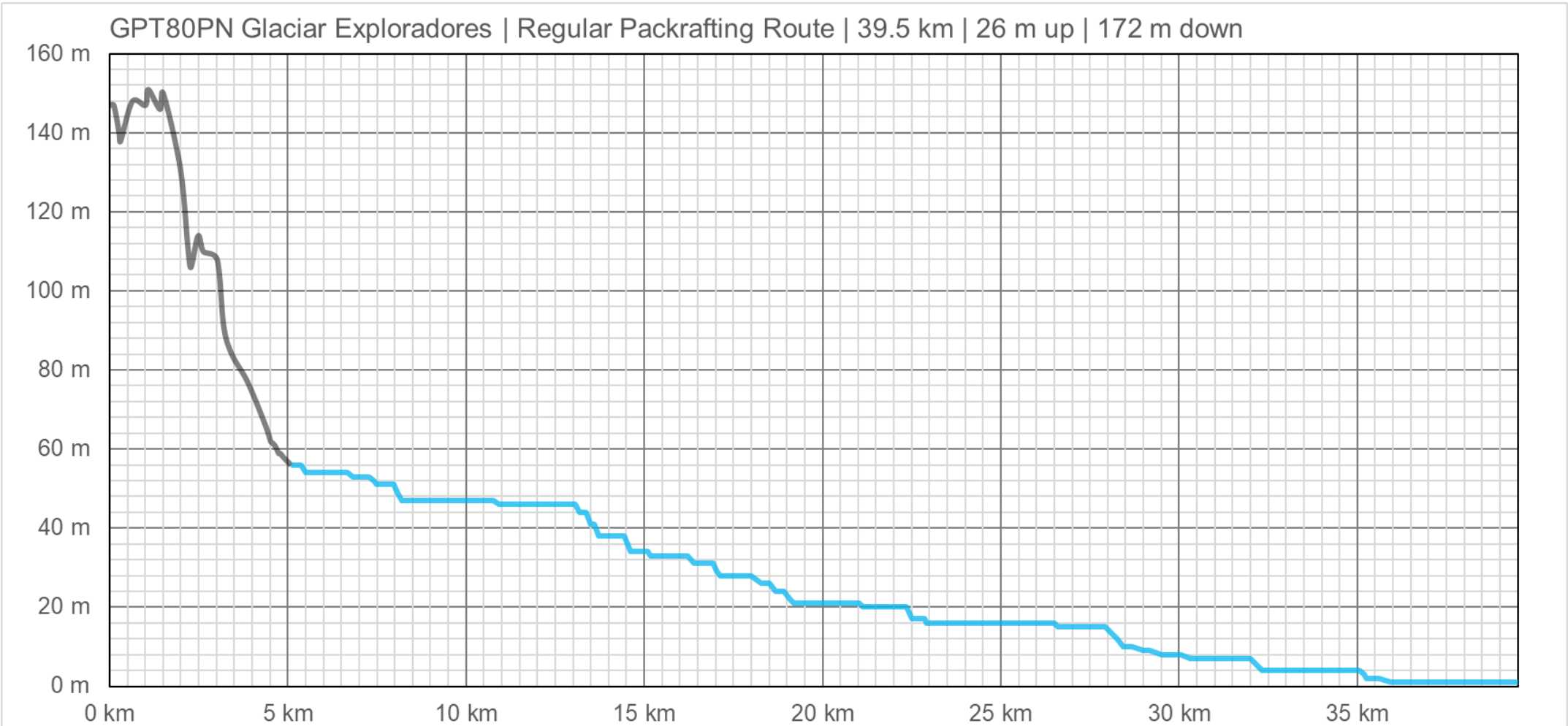
GPT80P: Glaciar Exploradores				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	O: Campo de Hielo Norte		Total	**-**	**-**	**109.1 km**	**37 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	10.3 km	9.4%
Start	Bahia Exploradores		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	4.5 km	4.1%
Finish	Puente Rio Leones		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	11.7 km	10.7%
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	12.9 km	11.9%
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT78P, GPT81P		Investigation (I)	-	-	(24.1 km)	(22.1%)
Options	100 km (2 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(76.0 km)	(69.6%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**69.6 km**	**63.8%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		52.1 km	47.8%
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		17.5 km	16.0%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Wetland, Valdivian Rain Forest, Alpine Terrain, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Exposure to Elements, Clambering, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 153: GPT80P Section Summary

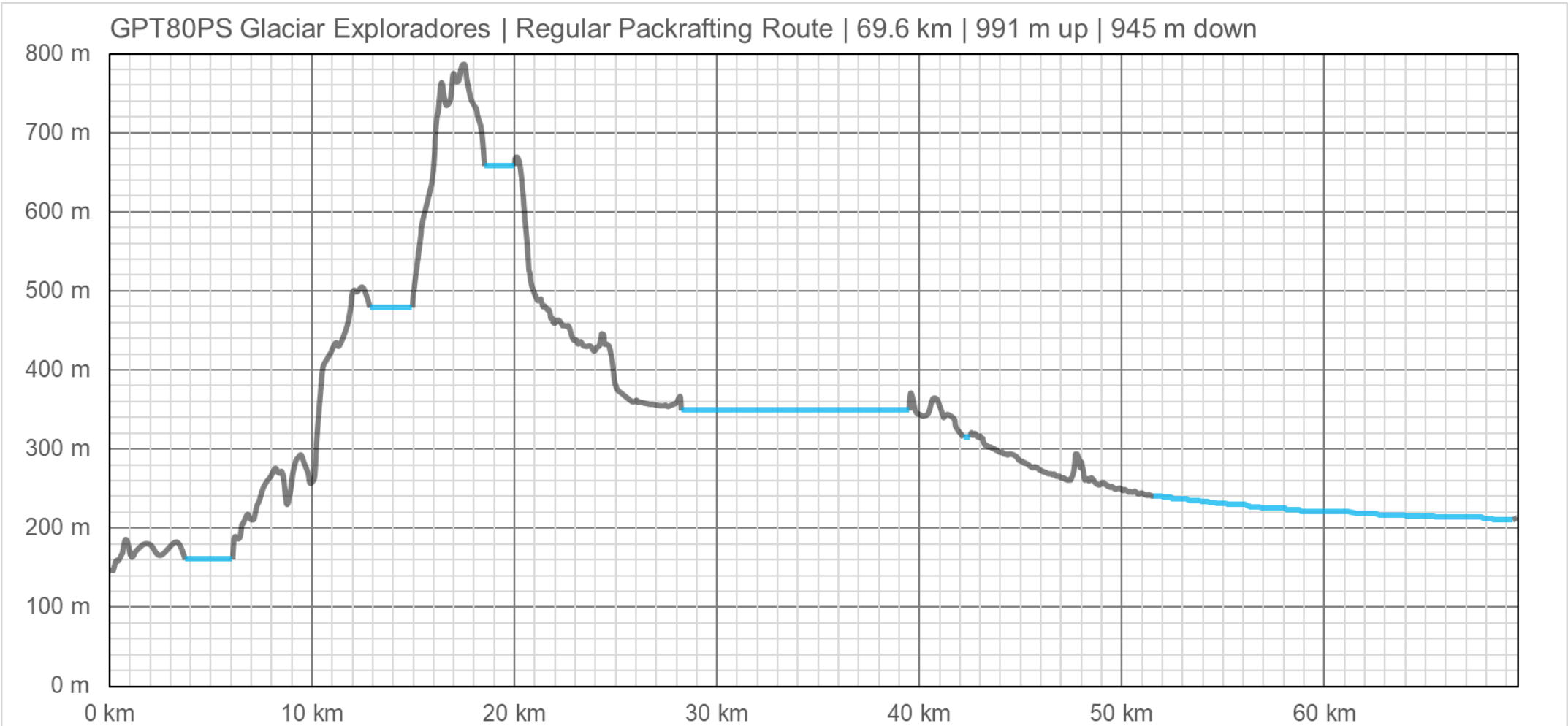

Satellite Image 130:GPT80P
Puerto Exploradores
GPT80PN End
GPT80PS Start
GPT80PN Start
Bahia Murta
Puerto Cristal
Puerto Sanchez
Puerto Tranquilo
Mallin Grande
GPT80PS End
Google Earth
20 km


Satellite Image 131:GPT80P Northbound Partion
Puerto Exploradores
GPT80PN End
GPT80PN Start
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
8 km


Satellite Image 132:GPT80P Southbound Partion
GPT80PS Start
Puerto Tranquilo
GPT80PS End
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
10 km



Elevation Profile 123: GPT80P Regular Packrafting Route: Northbound Partition

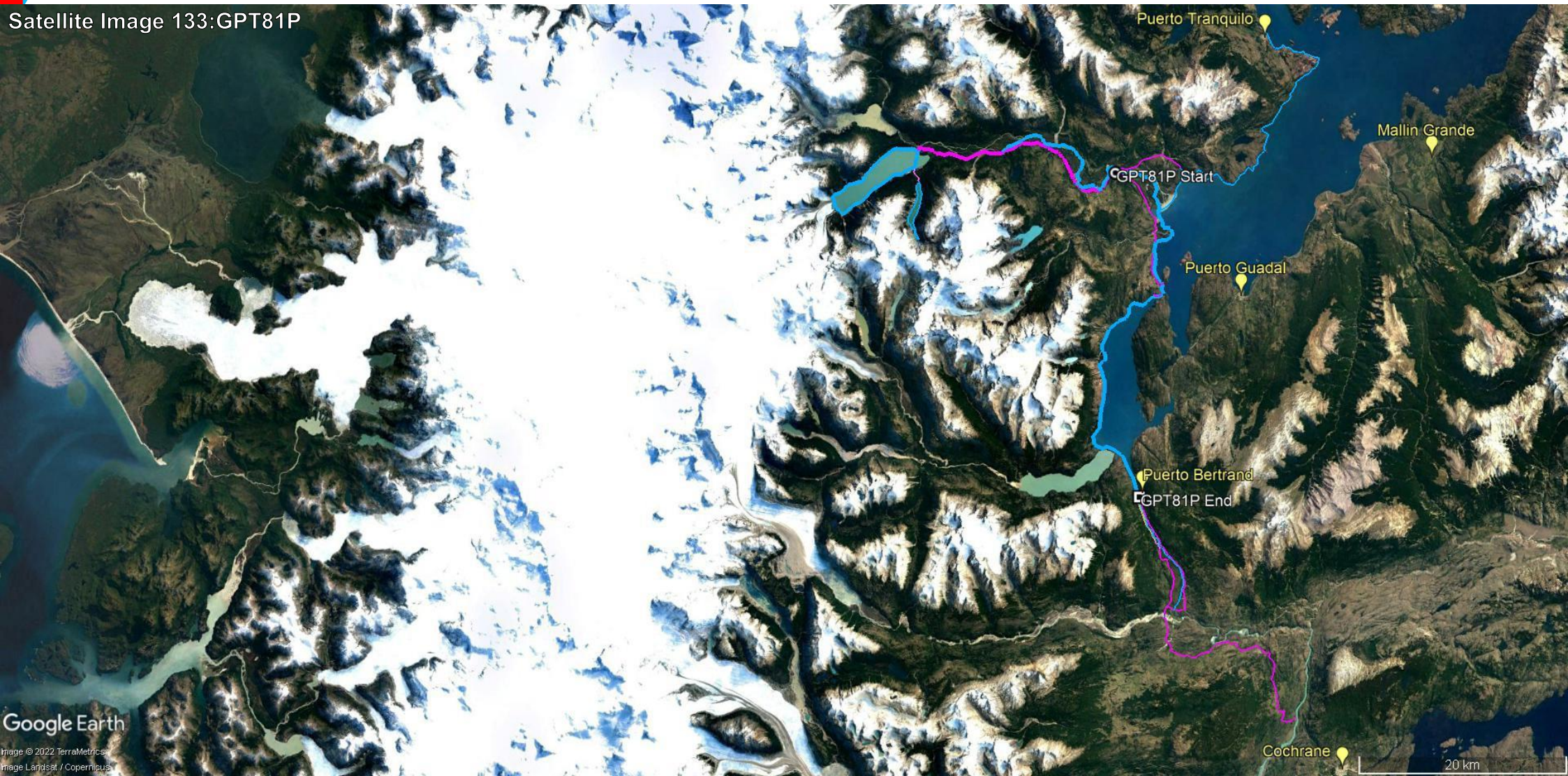


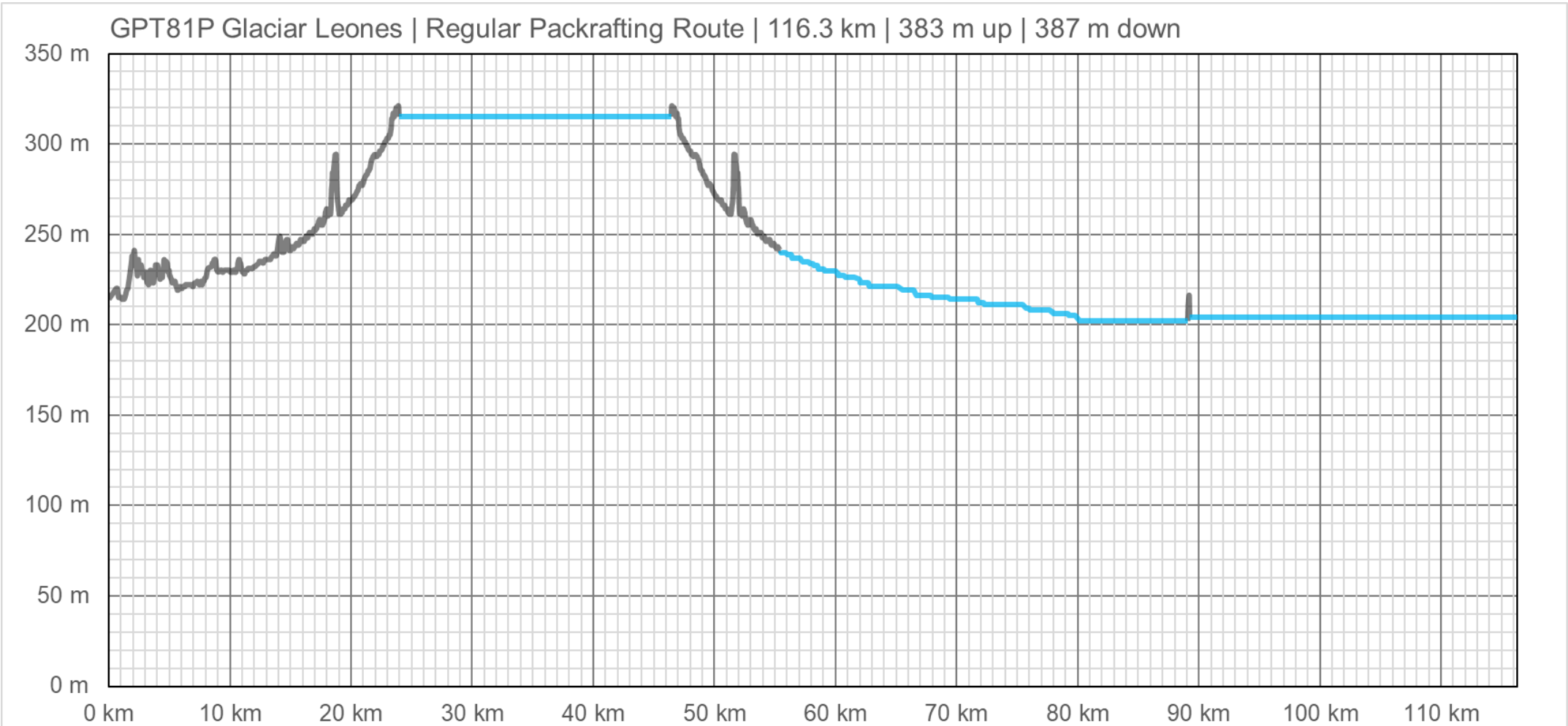
Elevation Profile 124: GPT80P Regular Packrafting Route: Southbound Partition

2.5.86 GPT81P: Glaciar Leones

GPT81P: Glaciar Leones				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	O: Campo de Hielo Norte		Total	**-**	**-**	**116.3 km**	**30 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	23.7 km	20.4%
Start	Puente Rio Leones		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	9.3 km	8.0%
Finish	Puerto Bertrand		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	0.2 km	0.1%
Traversable	Sep - May		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT35, GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT82P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	140 km (3 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**83.1 km**	**71.5%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		24.7 km	21.2%
Difficulty	-	4 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		58.4 km	50.2%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Wetland, Valdivian Rain Forest, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 154: GPT81P Section Summary


Satellite Image 133:GPT81P
Puerto Tranquilo
Mallin Grande
GPT81P Start
Puerto Guadal
Puerto Bertrand
GPT81P End
Cochrane
20 km
Google Earth
Image © 2022 TerraMetrics
Image Landsat / Copernicus



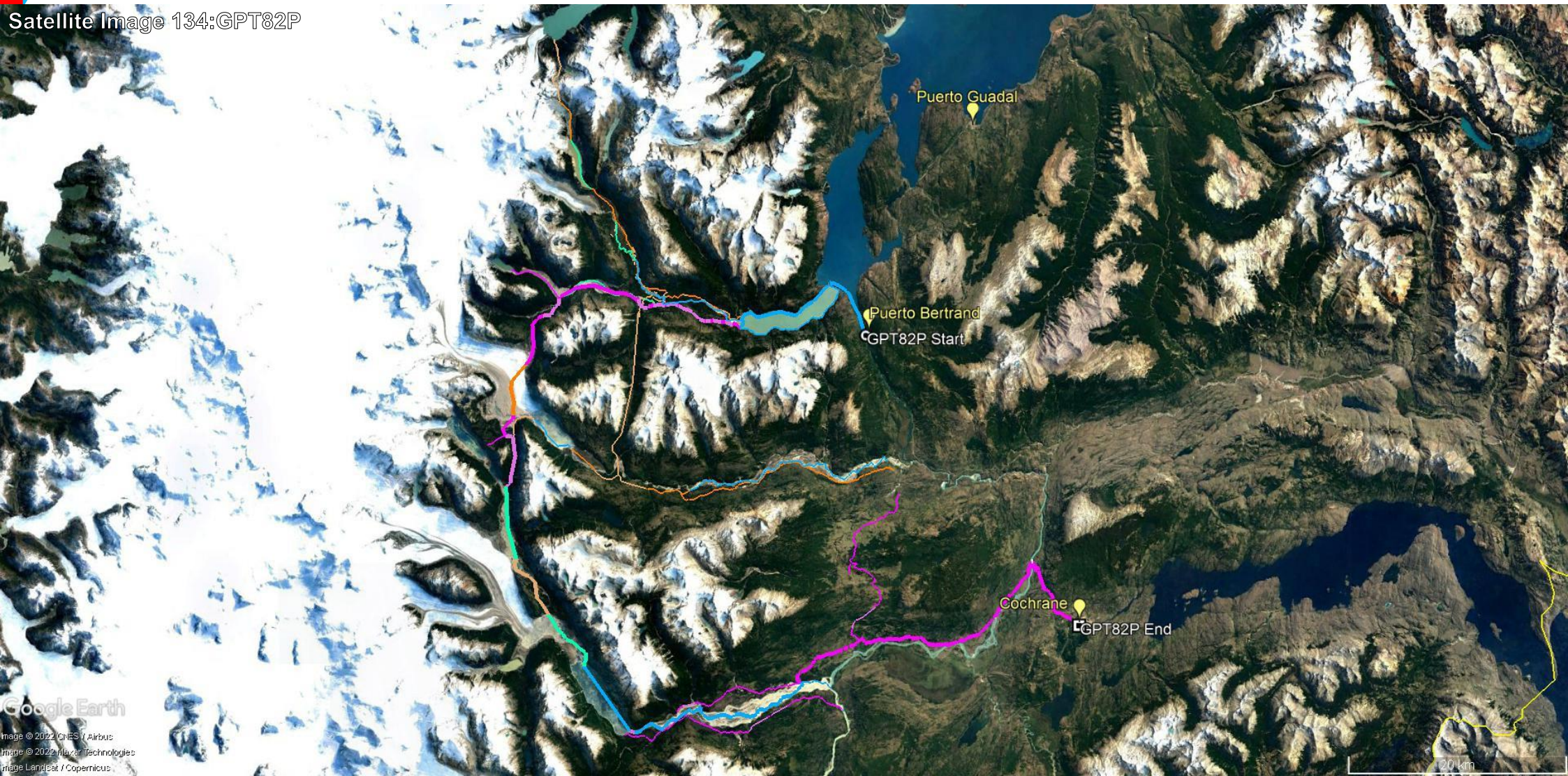
Elevation Profile 125: GPT81P Regular Packrafting Route

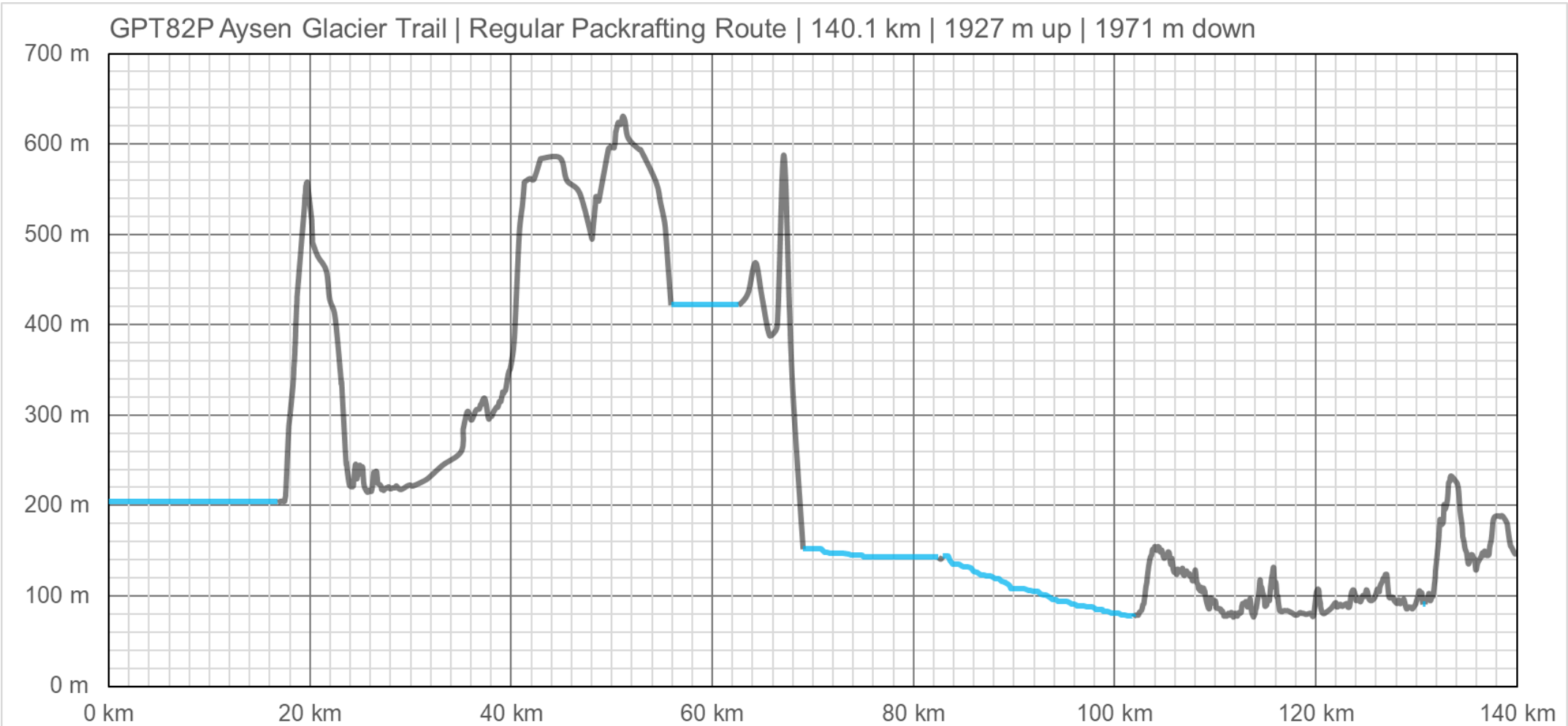
2.5.87 GPT82P: Aysen Glacier Trail

GPT82P: Aysen Glacier Trail				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	O: Campo de Hielo Norte		Total	**-**	**-**	**139.9 km**	**43 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	22.4 km	16.0%
Start	Puerto Bertrand		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	30.1 km	21.5%
Finish	Cochrane		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	7.7 km	5.5%
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	17.0 km	12.1%
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Dec, Apr)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	6.8 km	4.9%
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	(0.2 km)	(0.1%)
Connects to	GPT36P, GPT81P		Investigation (I)	-	-	(23.1 km)	(16.5%)
Options	251 km (10 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(24.5 km)	(17.5%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**55.9 km**	**40.0%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		23.4 km	16.7%
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		32.5 km	23.2%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Wetland, Valdivian Rain Forest, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 155: GPT82P Section Summary

Satellite Image 134:GPT82P



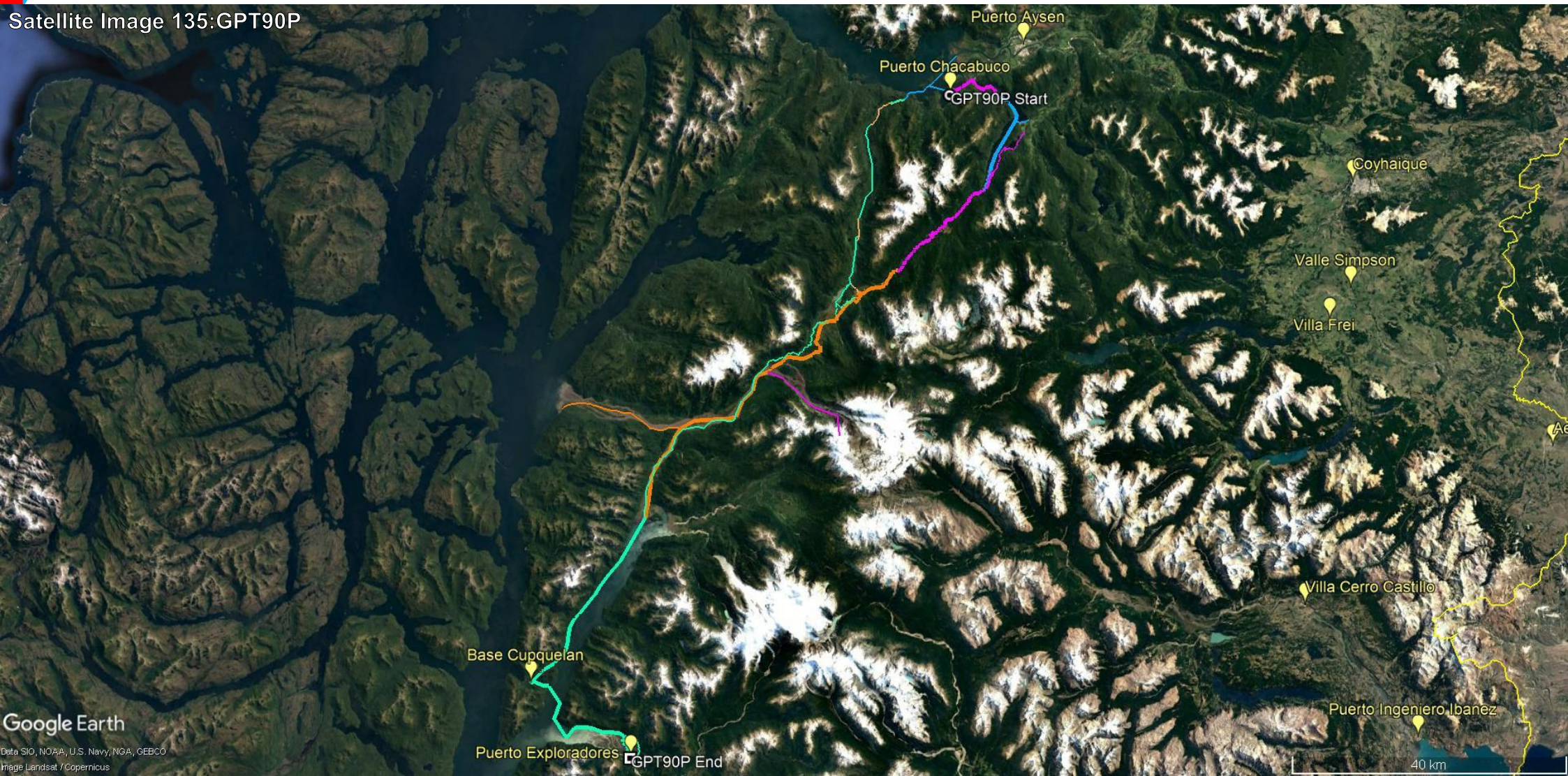


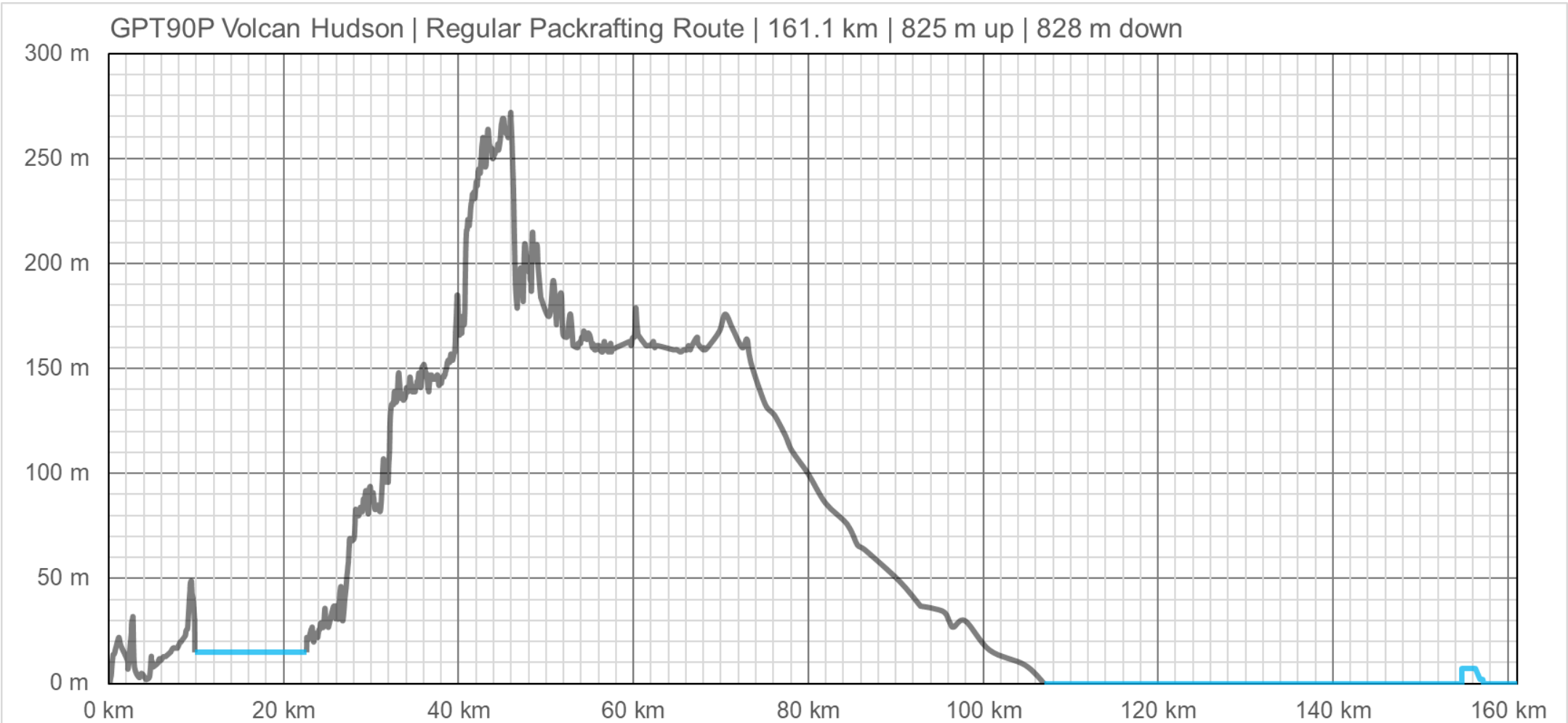
Elevation Profile 126: GPT82P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.88 GPT90P: Volcán Hudson

GPT90P: Volcan Hudson				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	P: Fiordos Sur		Total	**-**	**-**	**161.1 km**	**43 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	14.3 km	8.9%
Start	Puerto Chacabuco		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	20.3 km	12.6%
Finish	Bahia Exploradores		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	4.3 km	2.6%
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	55.3 km	34.4%
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Maybe: Nov, Dec, Apr, May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT29P, GPT31P, GPT78P, GPT91P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	183 km (4 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(114.8 km)	(71.3%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**66.9 km**	**41.5%**
Attraction	-	4 (of 5)		River (RI)		7.3 km	4.5%
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		11.9 km	7.4%
Direction	None	Both ↓↑		Fjord (FJ)		47.7 km	29.6%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Wetland, Valdivian Rain Forest, Volcanic Terrain, Sea Coast, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 156: GPT90P Section Summary


Satellite Image 135:GPT90P
Puerto Aysen
Puerto Chacabuco
GPT90P Start
Coyhaique
Valle Simpson
Villa Frei
Villa Cerro Castillo
Base Cupquelan
Puerto Exploradores
GPT90P End
Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez
Google Earth
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
40 km

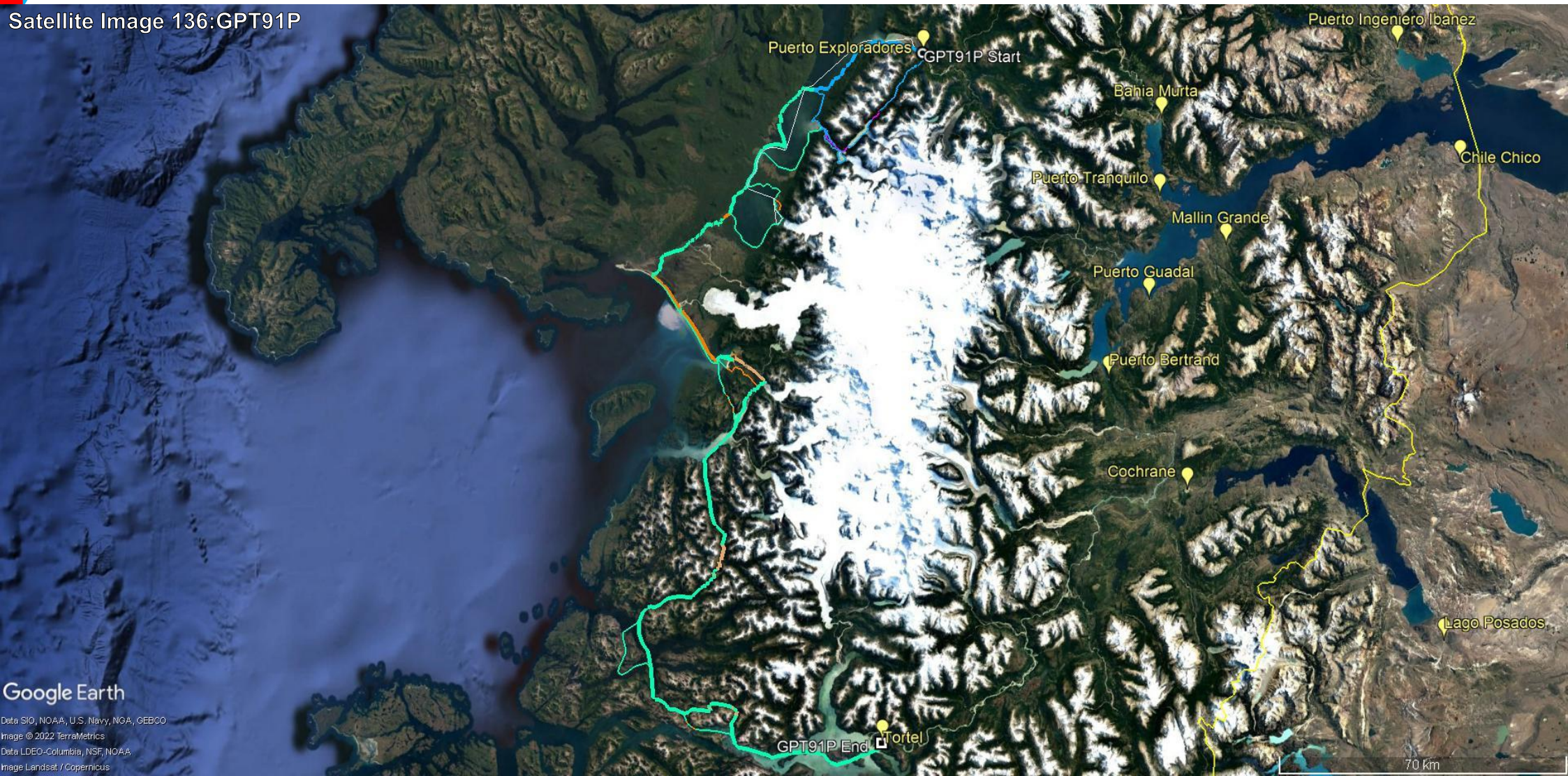


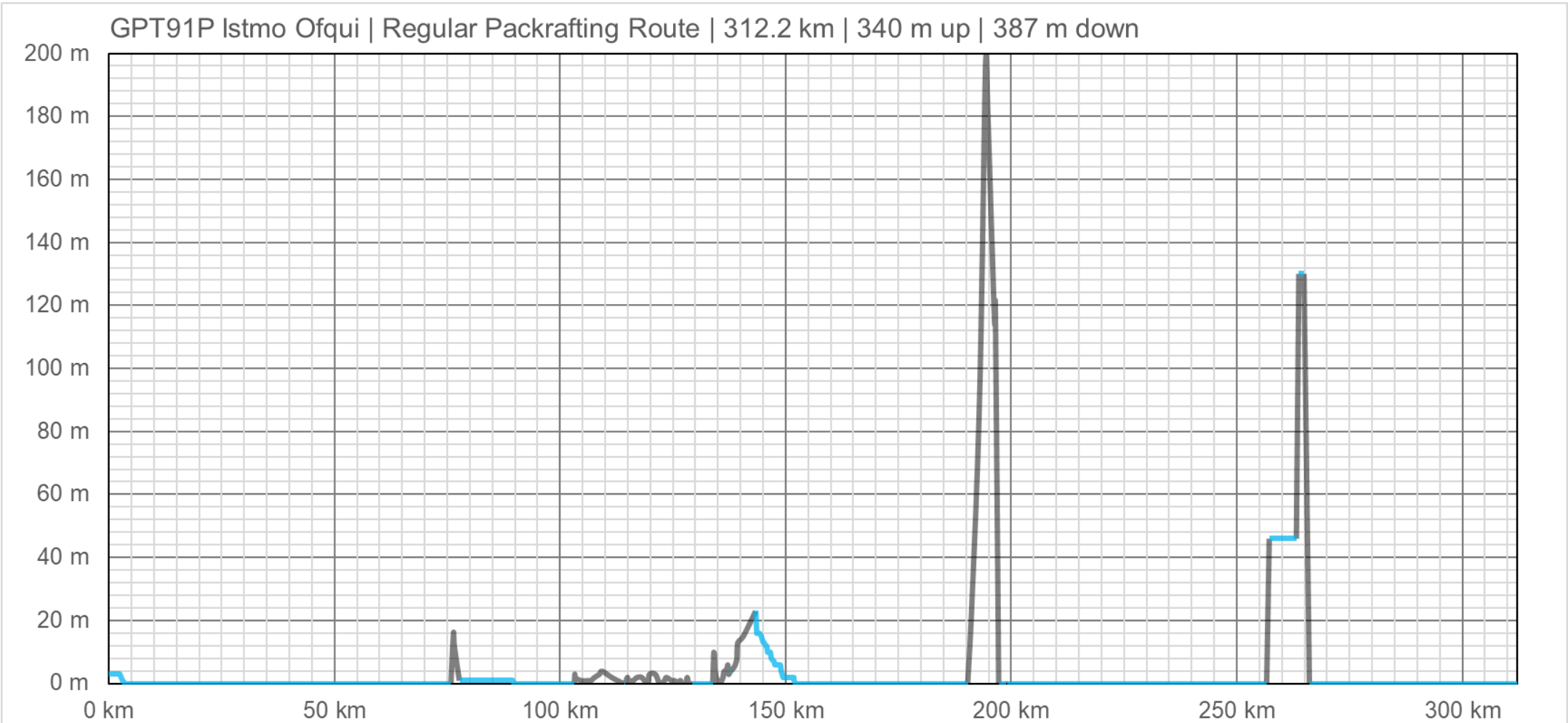
Elevation Profile 127: GPT90P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.89 GPT91P: Istmo de Ofqui

GPT91P: Istmo Ofqui				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	P: Fiordos Sur		Total	**-**	**-**	**312.2 km**	**93 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	Bahia Exploradores		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Caleta Tortel		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	35.2 km	11.3%
Traversable	(Maybe: Sep - May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	11.4 km	3.7%
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT36P, GPT78P, GPT90P, GPT92P		Investigation (I)	-	-	(18.9 km)	(6.1%)
Options	249 km (4 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(279.6 km)	(89.6%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**265.6 km**	**85.1%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		48.1 km	15.4%
Difficulty	-	6 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		8.8 km	2.8%
Direction	None	Only ↓		Fjord (FJ)		208.8 km	66.9%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible						
Character	Wetland, Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	Demanding River Fords, Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Resupply Distance, Possibly Impassable, Exploration Required						

Table 157: GPT91P Section Summary


Satellite Image 136:GPT91P
Puerto Exploradores
GPT91P Start
Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez
Bahia Murta
Chile Chico
Puerto Tranquilo
Mallin Grande
Puerto Guadal
Puerto Bertrand
Cochrane
Lago Posados
GPT91P End
Tortel
Google Earth
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2022 TerraMetrics
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA
Image Landsat / Copernicus
70 km



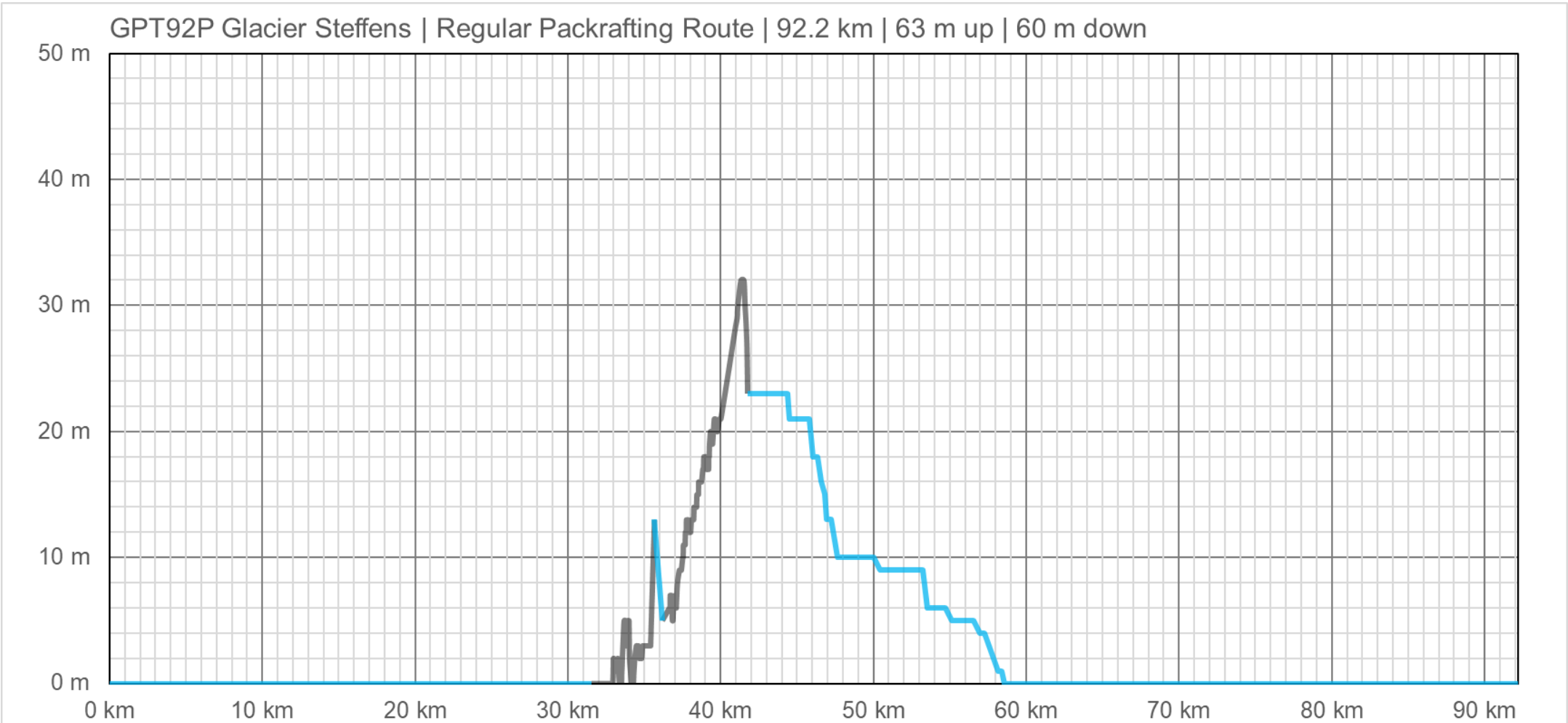
Elevation Profile 128: GPT91P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.90 GPT92P: Glacier Steffens

GPT92P: Glacier Steffens				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	P: Fiordos Sur		Total	**-**	**-**	**92.2 km**	**24 h**
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)		Trails (TL)	-	-	7.2 km	7.9%
Start	Caleta Tortel		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	Caleta Tortel		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	To be Verified		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	2.5 km	2.7%
Traversable	(Maybe: Sep - May)		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Required		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	GPT36P, GPT91P		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	25 km (1 Options & Variants)		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	(92.2 km)	(100.0%)
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**82.5 km**	**89.4%**
Attraction	-	5 (of 5)		River (RI)		20.5 km	22.2%
Difficulty	-	5 (of 5)		Lake (LK)		1.4 km	1.5%
Direction	None	Return		Fjord (FJ)		60.6 km	65.7%
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not feasible Packrafting: Circuit						
Character	Wetland, Valdivian Rain Forest, Sea Coast, Glaciers, Unpeopled Areas, River Packrafting, Lake Packrafting, Fjord Packrafting						
Challenges	Bush Bashing, Demanding Navigation, Exploration Required						

Table 158: GPT92P Section Summary


Satellite Image 137:GPT92P
GPT92P End
Tortel
Google Earth
Image © 2022 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies
Image Landsat / Copernicus
10 km



Elevation Profile 129: GPT92P Regular Packrafting Route

2.5.91 HA: Huella Andina

HA: Huella Andina				Hiking		Packrafting	
Group	Q: Huella Andina		Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Region	Argentina: Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut &		Trails (TL)	-	-	-	-
Start	-		Minor Roads (MR)	-	-	-	-
Finish	-		Primary Roads (PR)	-	-	-	-
Status	Published By Others		Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Traversable	-		Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Packraft	Useful		Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
Connects to	-		Investigation (I)	-	-	-	-
Options	None		Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
	Hiking	Packrafting		Total on Water		**-**	**-**
Attraction	-	-		River (RI)		-	-
Difficulty	-	-		Lake (LK)		-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	-		Fjord (FJ)		-	-
Comment	-						
Character	-						
Challenges	-						

Table 159: HA Section Summary

2.5.91.1 Links to other Resources

https://huellaandinatrail.com/links/

3 Appendix and Indices

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3.1 Hardware: Navigation Devices and Other Gadgets

3.1.1 Summary of Recommendation

In the introduction in chapters 1.11.9 Maps and Navigation on page 216 and 1.11.10 Communication Devices on page 236 I discuss why GPS navigation and satellite communication are essential for the GPT what devices are recommended. The following table summarizes the current recommendation (Update 2021):

	Option 1	**Option 2**	**Not generally recommended alternative**
Primary GPS Navigation Device	Garmin eTrex22x or Garmin eTrex32x	Garmin GPSMAP66i with satellite communication	Smartphone with multiple navigation Apps
Backup GPS Navigation Device	Smartphone with multiple navigation Apps	Smartphone with multiple navigation Apps	Second backup smartphone with multiple navigation Apps
Satellite Communication Device	InReach Mini	-	InReach Mini

Table 160: Currently recommended primary and backup navigation devices (Update 2021)

The correct setup and the competent use of these navigation and communication devices are discussed in this this and the following chapters.

3.1.2 Principles of GPS Navigation



The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a satellite-based radionavigation system owned by the United States government and operated by the United States Space Force. It was developed for military purposes in the 1970’s and opened for civilian use in the 1980’s. Approximately 24 active GPS satellites orbit the earth roughly 20’000 km above ground. These GPS satellites transmit radio signals that are used by GPS devices to calculate the current position. The senders in the satellites are quite week; only 27 Watt are emitted by each satellite. At the user's receiver only one tenth of a million-billionth of a watt (100 attowatts) arrive. This makes the signal analysis and position calculation a slow and power-consuming process especially when starting up the GPS device.

The United States government can selectively deny access to the system. As a result, several countries have developed other satellite navigation systems. These are GLONASS (Russia), BeiDou (China), Galileo (European Union), NavIC (India) and QZSS (Japan). For more information see Wikipedia.

When being outdoors with an unobstructed view to the sky the typical error of a standard handheld GPS is less than 5 meters. This is fully sufficient for hiking and packrafting. Therefore, it is not required to use in addition the GLONASS or Galileo signals. This only increase the power-consumption of the navigation device without a practical benefit.

3.1.3 Primary Navigation Device: Handheld GPS

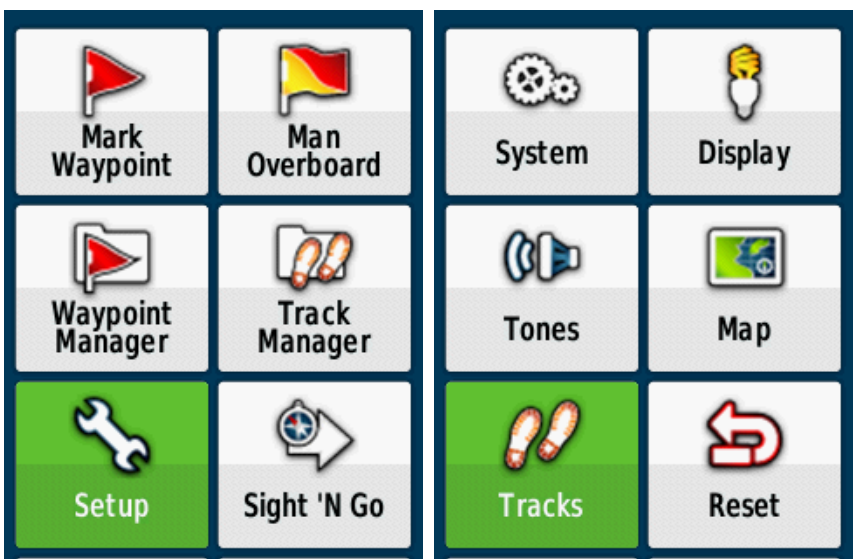
I recommend a Garmin handheld GPS as the primary navigation device. See chapter 1.11.9 Maps and Navigation on page 216 for the reasoning of this recommendation. The recommended Garmin devices are delivered fully functional and do not require additional software or apps. Only a firmware update should be done after purchasing and before heading to the GPT and some settings should be changed or verified to minimize power consumption and record tracks in a convenient manner.

3.1.3.1 Recording of Tracks with an eTrex

When the GPS device is switched on and remains in standby it can record all your movements. The additional power consumption of recording is insignificant as this feature only writes a few bytes every few seconds into the memory. Therefore, recording tracks does not shorten the battery life.

To setup recording go to the **Main Menu,** select **Setup,** and then **Tracks**. Recording your tracks and sharing them with the author is essential to keep the GPT route network updated. Therefore, this became part of the Terms and Conditions for Using the Hikers' Manual and the Track Files.

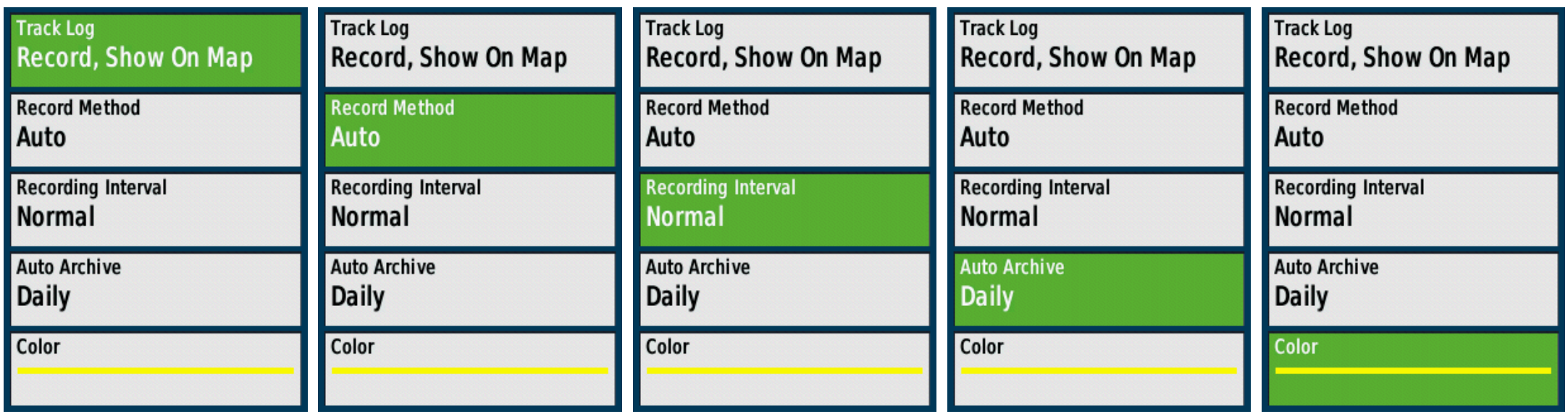
The recommended Garmin devices store the recorded tracks in the GMX file format in the internal memory in the folders "Garmin/GPX/Archive" (all records from previous days) and "Garmin/GPX/Current" (current track).



Picture 383 and 384: Setup of Track Recording on a Garmin eTrex30x

My **suggested track recording options** are:

- **Record, Show On Map**. This means that all your movements get saved and displayed on the GPS screen. This is very useful when backtracking i.e. after loosing the trail or to simply review at the end of the day what you hiked and paddled.
- The **Record Method Auto** and the **Recording Interval Normal** generates reasonable precise tracks without too many points.
- **Auto Archive Daily** created one track file for each day. This facilitates the handling and the analysis of tracks.
- Choose a Colour that is easily distinguishable from other tracks and map features.

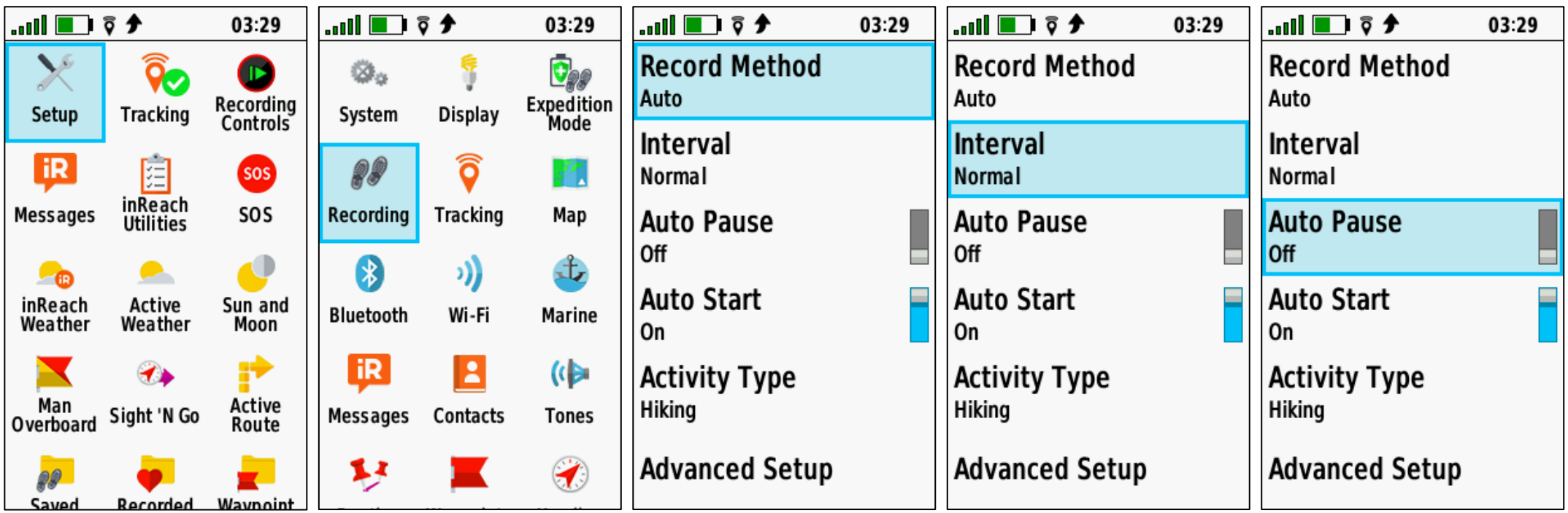


Pictures 385, 386, 387, 388 and 389: Suggested Recording Options for a Garmin eTrex30x

3.1.3.2 Recording of Tracks with a GPSMAP66i

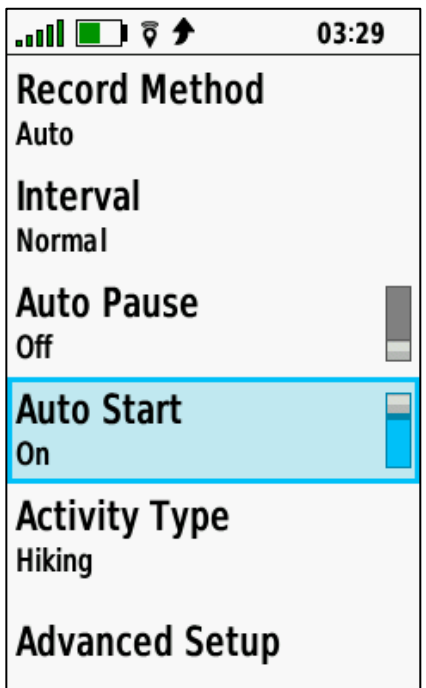
The recommended GPSMAP66i recording settings are similar to the eTrex but menus are different.

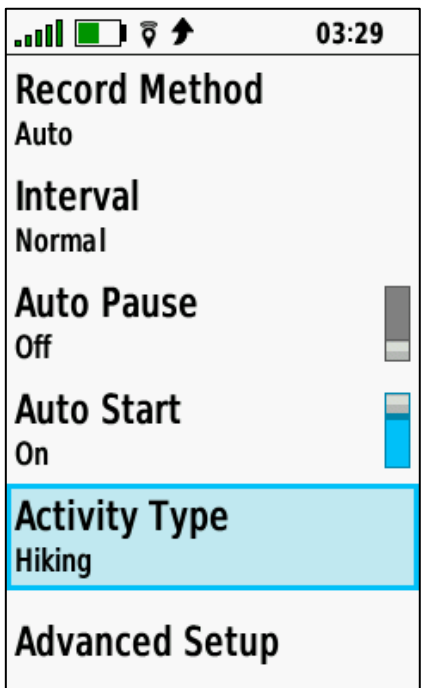
- The **Record Method Auto** and the **Interval Normal** generates reasonable precise tracks without too many points.

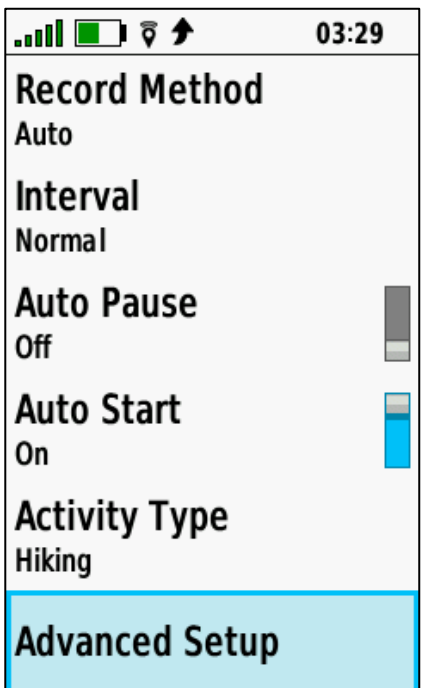


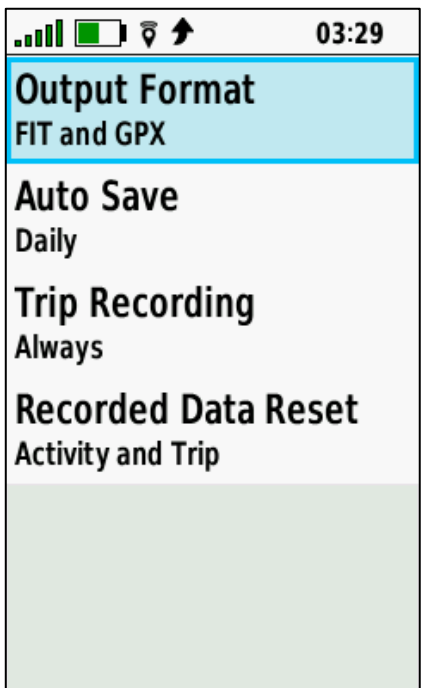
Pictures 390, 391, 392, 393 and 394: Suggested Recording Options for a Garmin GPSMAP66i

- It is important that the **output format GPX** is selected. This is the commonly used format for GPS track and waypoint data.











Pictures 395, 396, 397, 398 and 399: Suggested Recording Options for a Garmin GPSMAP66i

- **Auto Save Daily** created one track file for each day. This facilitates the handling and the analysis of tracks.

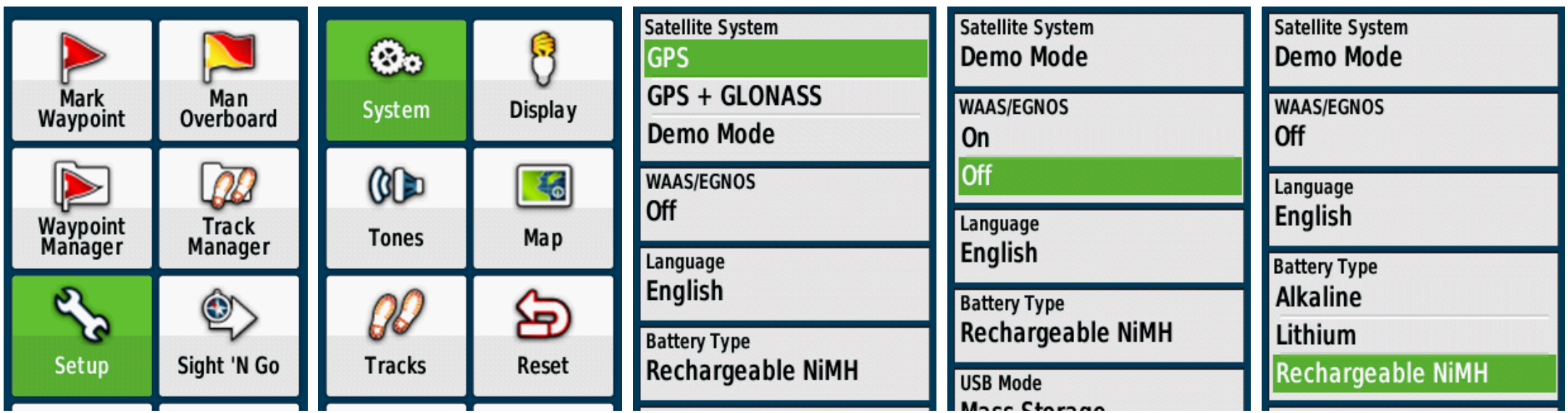


Pictures 400, 401, 402, 403 and 404: Suggested Recording Options for a Garmin GPSMAP66i

3.1.3.3 Maximizing Battery Life of an eTrex

To maximize the battery life, I suggest:

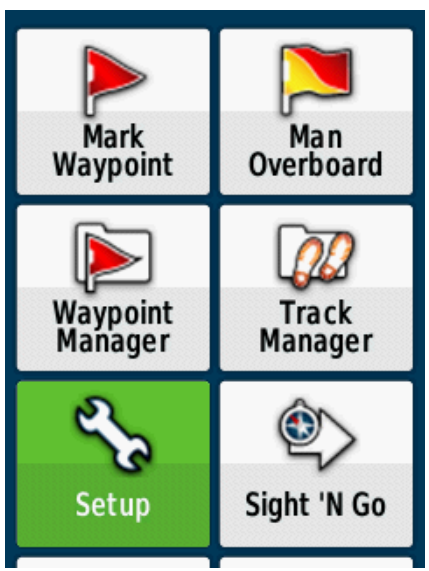
- Use the **Satellite System GPS** only and not the GLONASS or GALILEO in addition as this increases the standby power consumption by 30% without a practical benefit (GPS is sufficiently accurate). Also **WAAS/EGNOS** should be **Off**.
- Select the actually used Battery Type (Alkaline, Lithium or Rechargeable NiMH) otherwise the display of the remaining power is incorrect. Note that the display of the remaining battery capacity is not particular reliable. It is not unusual that the display indicates for two days full batteries and then goes in one or two hours from full to empty.

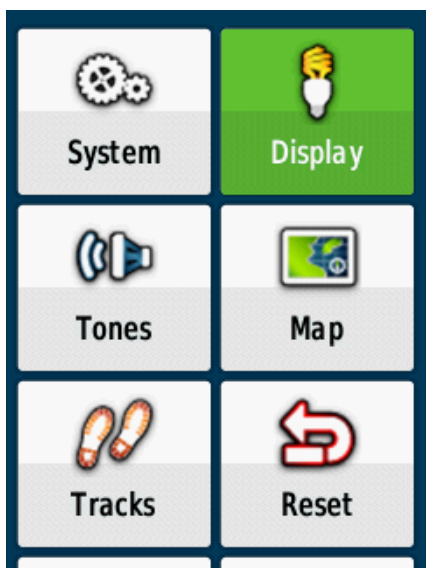


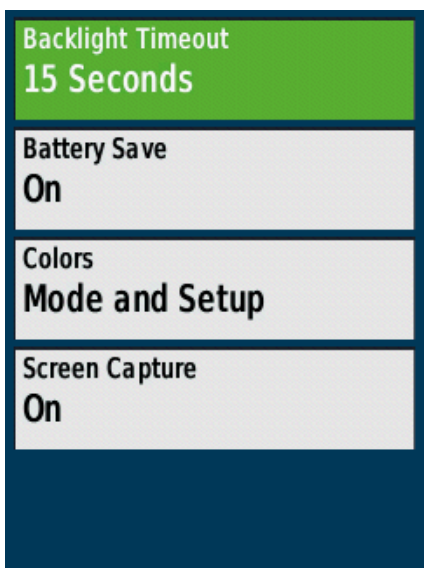
Pictures 405, 406, 407, 408 and 409: Suggested System Setup to maximize battery life on a Garmin eTrex30x

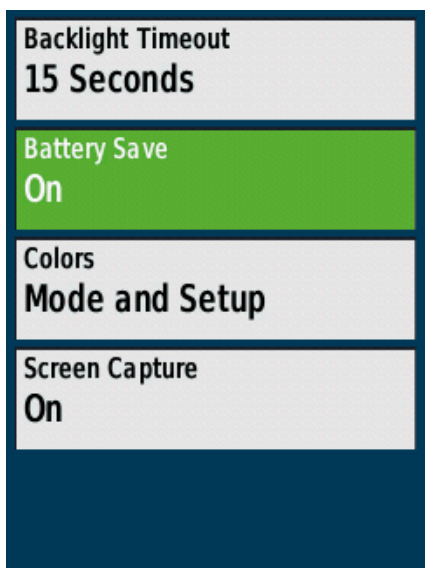
In addition, the following display setup should be used to minimize power consumption:

- **Backlight Timeout 15 Seconds** switches the backlight automatically off.
- **Battery Save On** causes the display to disappear after the Backlight Timeout setting. By pushing any button the display is reactivated. This option prolongs the battery life by about 40%.
- The **Backlight** should remain **Off** whenever not needed i.e. during daytime. On the eTrex the backlight is controlled by briefly hitting the power button several times. This can accidentally activate the backlight when not needed. Therefore, **make sure that backlight is not accidentally activated during daytime**.











Pictures 410, 411, 412 and 413: Suggested Display Setup to maximize battery life on a Garmin eTrex30x

To better understand and optimize power consumption, I measured the actual power consumption of a Garmin eTrex30x under different conditions. The above suggested settings are partly based on these measurements.

Measured Power Consumption				
Functions	**Percent**	**Power in mW**	**Current in mA**	**Theoretical Running Time**
GPS Standby in open terrain with clear view to sky	100%	125 mW	50 mA	(40 h)
GPS Standby without clear view to sky i.e. inside building	140%	175 mW	70 mA	(28 h)
GPS Standby + Recording	100%	125 mW	50 mA	(40 h)
GPS Standby + GLONASS	130%	163 mW	65 mA	(30 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active	140%	175 mW	70 mA	(28 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active + Zooming/Moving	250%	313 mW	125 mA	(16 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active + 50% Backlight	200%	250 mW	100 mA	(20 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active + 100% Backlight	380%	475 mW	190 mA	(10 h)
Power consumption of a Garmin eTrex30x (should be nearly identical for eTrex20x devices). Running time calculated for fully charged NiMH batteries with a 2000 mA capacity and an average voltage of 1.25 V. Low Power Alarm: When voltage drops below 1.2 V GPS Off: When voltage drops below 1.1 V				

Table 161: Power consumption of GPS handheld device

I do not fully trust the theoretical running time, but the measured power consumption provides a good estimate how different features affect the battery life. For the actual battery running time see the next table.

For planning purposes, I suggest calculating with the following typical battery life when using a Garmin eTrex. These values are based on actual trail experience.

Battery Type	Typical Battery Life[81]	Nominal Voltage	Weight	Comment
Rechargeable Battery Types				
NiMH	2 to 3 days	1.2 V	2 x 25 g	Lowest Long-Term-Cost. Suitable for recharging i.e. when carrying a solar panel or recharging in towns.
Not Rechargeable Battery Types				
Alkaline	3 to 4 days	1.5 V	2 x 23 g	Best Weight-Cost-Ratio especially when not carrying a solar panel. Not suitable for recharging.
Lithium	4 to 5 days	1.5 V	2 x 15 g	Luxury Low-Weight-Option or emergency spares. Do not recharge as these batteries may explode.
Not Recommended Battery Types				
Lithium-Ion	-	3.7 V	-	**DO NOT USE!** AA sized 14500 Li-Ion batteries have a voltage of 3.7 V what permanently damages the GPS.
Zinc-Carbon	-	1.5 V	-	**DO NOT USE!** Zin-Carbon batteries have a much lower capacity, are not cold-resistant and may leak.

Table 162: Typical battery life with GPS handheld device

[81] The typical battery life is based on the experience of a few hikers (including me) that did not necessarily apply all the recommended power-saving settings, might not have used new healthy NiMH batteries or more sophisticated Garmin GPS devices with a higher power consumption. Therefore, the typical battery lift is rather conservative, and the actual battery life may exceed these values. I will update these numbers once I receive more feedbacks from other hikers that used eTrex20x or eTrex30x devices and applied all the recommended power-saving settings.

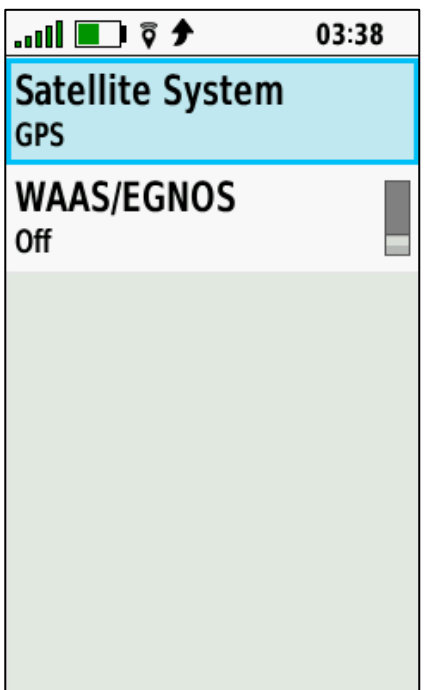
3.1.3.4 Maximizing Battery Life of a GPSMAP66i

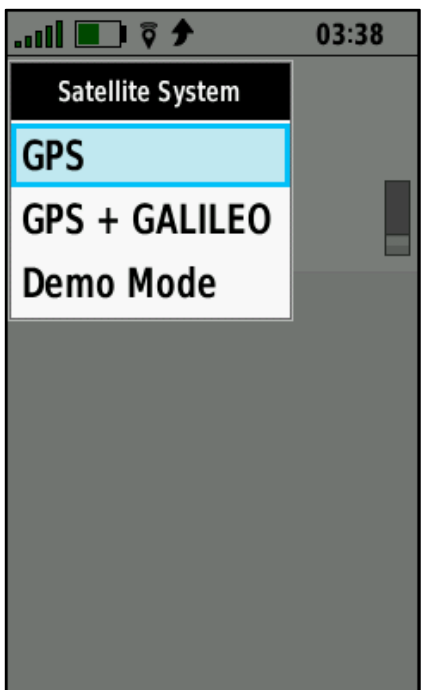
The recommended GPSMAP66i power conservation settings are similar to the eTrex.

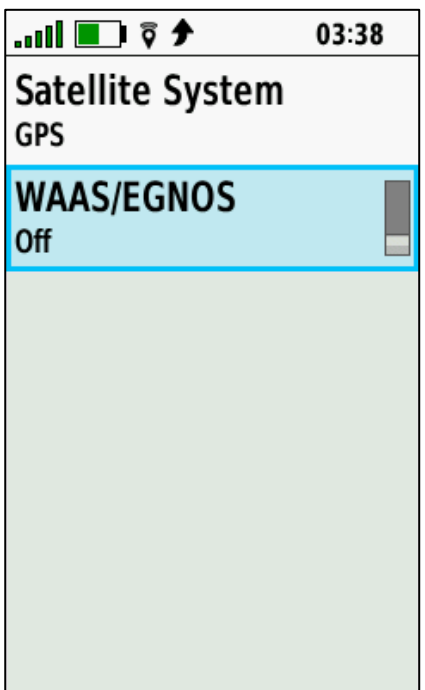
- Use the **Satellite System GPS** only and not the GLONASS or GALILEO in addition as this increases the standby power consumption. Also, **WAAS/EGNOS** should be **Off**.





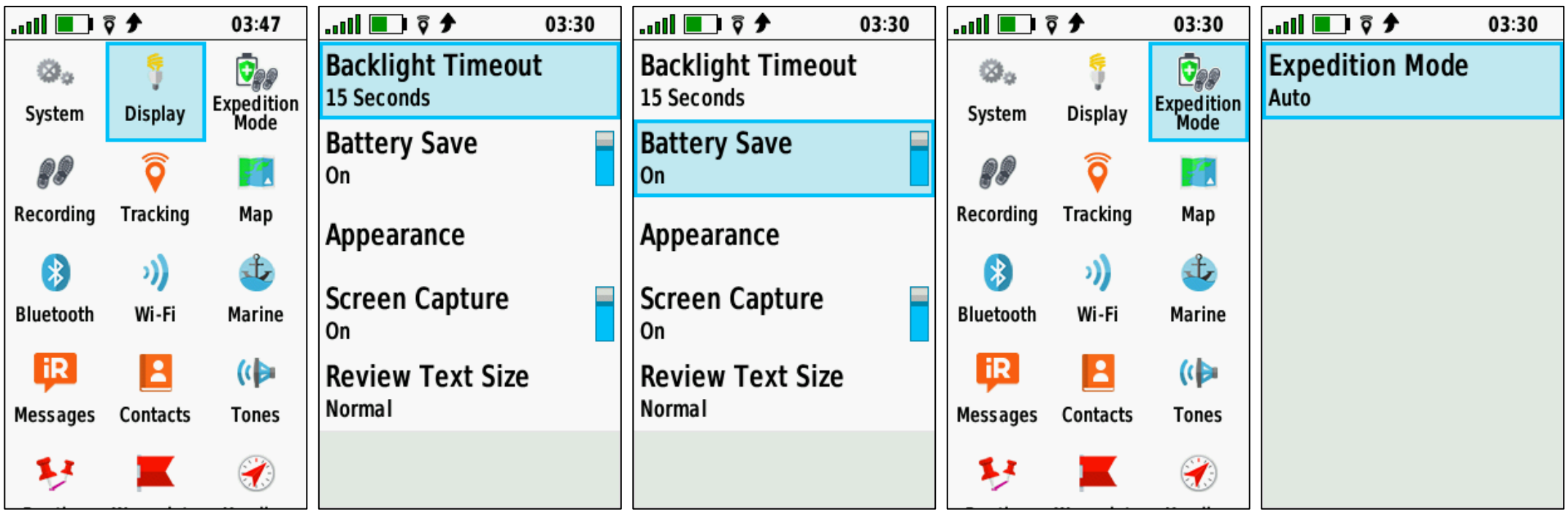






Pictures 414, 415, 416, 417 and 418: Suggested Power Conservation Settings for a Garmin GPSMAP66i

- **Backlight Timeout 15 Seconds** switches backlight automatically off.
- **Battery Save On** causes the display to disappear after the Backlight Timeout setting. By pushing the power button the display is reactivated.
- Select the **Expedition Mode Auto**. This automatically activates various power conservation settings including less frequent position calculations resulting in a noticeable reduced precision of the recorded track.



Pictures 419, 420, 421, 422 and 423: Suggested Power Conservation Settings for a Garmin GPSMAP66i

- The **Backlight** should remain **Off** whenever not needed i.e. during daytime. On the GPSMAP66i the backlight is controlled by briefly hitting the power button and selecting with the +/- buttons the backlight level. During daytime the backlight level should be 0%. During daytime a partially activated backlight is easily overlooked. Therefore, **make sure that backlight is not accidentally activated during daytime**.

The power consumption of the GPSMAP66i depends not only on the use of the navigation system but also on the use of the satellite communication. After using the device one season our rule of thumb is a 10% to 15% battery depletion per day in expedition mode while frequently making location verifications and sending our current position every 10 min via satellite.

The build-in Lithium-Ion battery has a capacity of 10.5 Wh (3100 mAh) so the daily power consumption is generously estimated somewhere between **1 and 2 Wh per day in expedition mode** with a regular use of satellite communication. That's an impressively low power consumption especially when compared to smartphones.

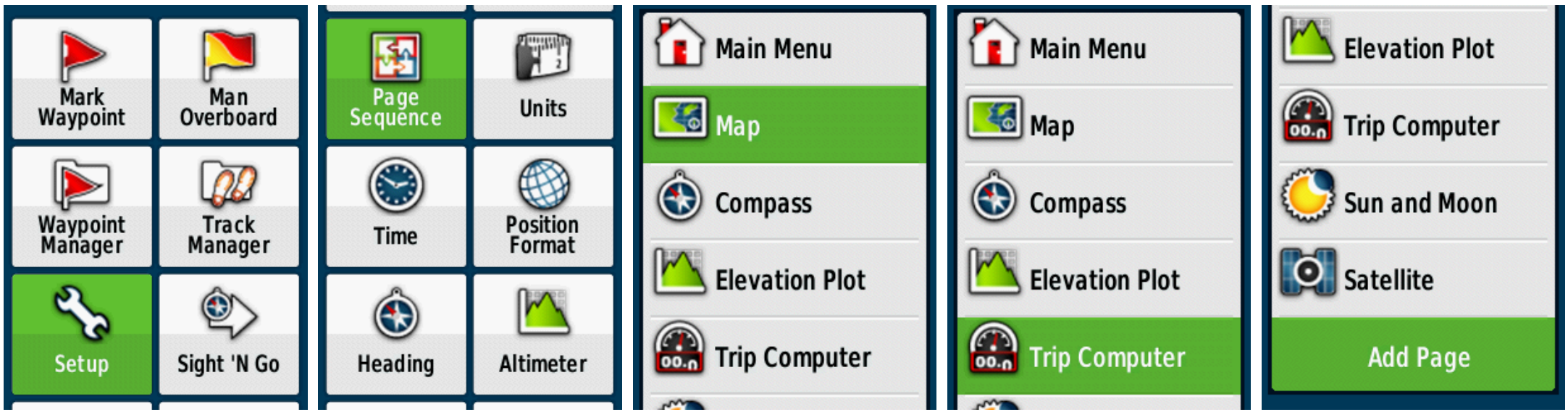
Note, that the remaining power is only precisely displayed in percent while charging the device. That's inconvenient and one of the many notorious Garmin firmware annoyances.



Picture 424: GPSMAP66i

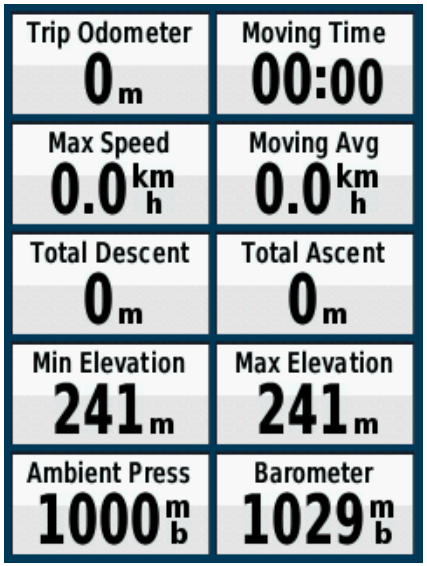
3.1.3.5 Optimizing Displays of an eTrex

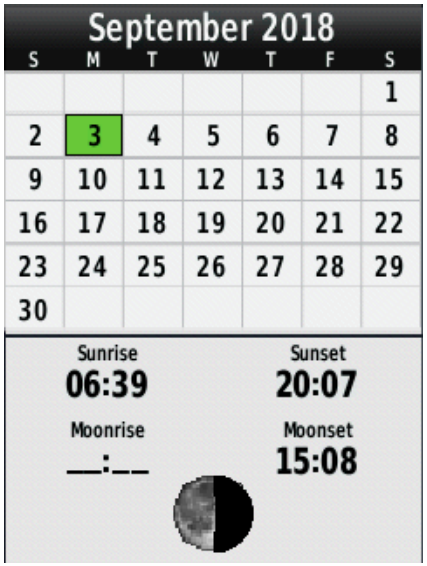
In the **Setup** menu under **Page Sequence** you can select displays that are useful for you i.e. the Map page, the Compass page, the Elevation Plot and many more. By hitting the back button you switch between your pre-select pages without selecting them every time in Main Menu.



Pictures 425, 426, 427, 428 and 429: Addition of Optional Pages on a Garmin eTrex30x

My pre-selected pages are:



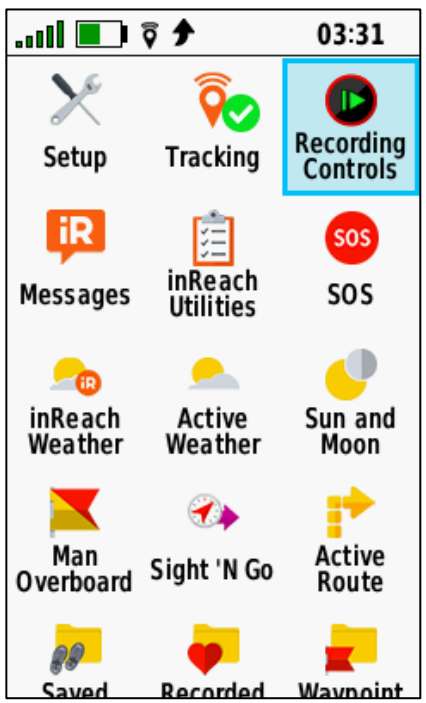


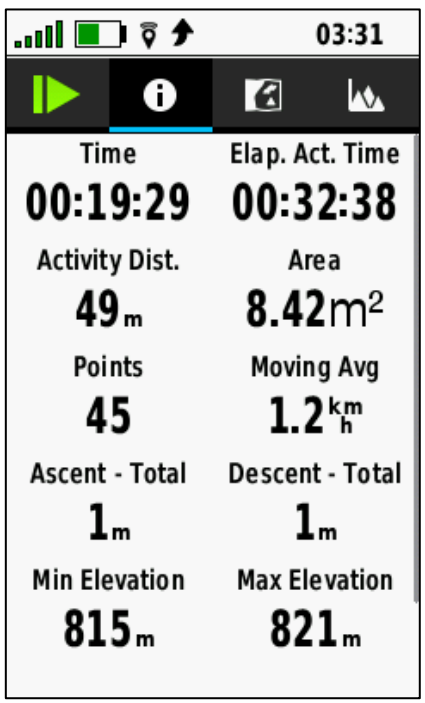
Picture 430 and 431: Trip Computer and Sun and Moon Page of eTrex30x

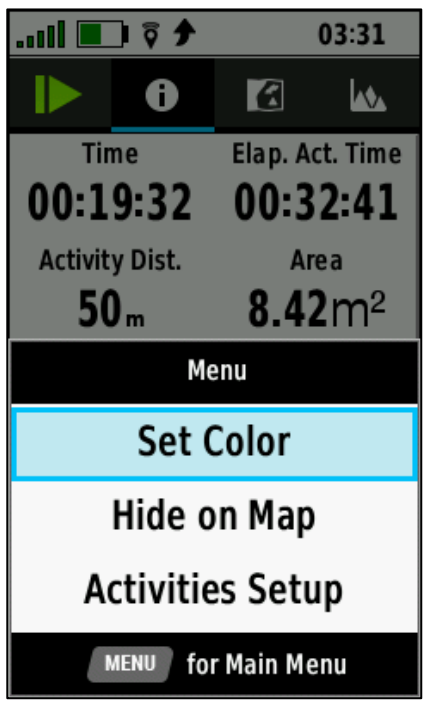
- **Map**: Shows the current location on the maps and permits zooming and panning to plan ahead. This is my most frequently used page.
- **Compass**: You can select on the map a point an aim for this point using the Compass page. This is useful in cross country terrain and when packrafting in open water. If your device does not have a magnetic sensor (i.e. the eTrex20x comes without compass) then the orientation is only shown correctly while moving.
- **Elevation Plot**: The elevation plot does not shrink mountains but shows you at least what you climbed and descended.
- **Trip Computer**: You can select the values that you wish to get shown on this page. We tend to reset the counter daily to monitor our daily advance but you can keep the counter running if you love to see big numbers.
- **Sun and Moon**: Knowing sunrise, sunset and moon status is useful to anticipate natural light and know your death-line for finding a suitable camp site. Also the calendar is handy when approaching a section end and planning your resupply trip.
- **Satellite**: In dense forest satellite signal reception may be compromised. This page helps to understand the accuracy of the displayed location.

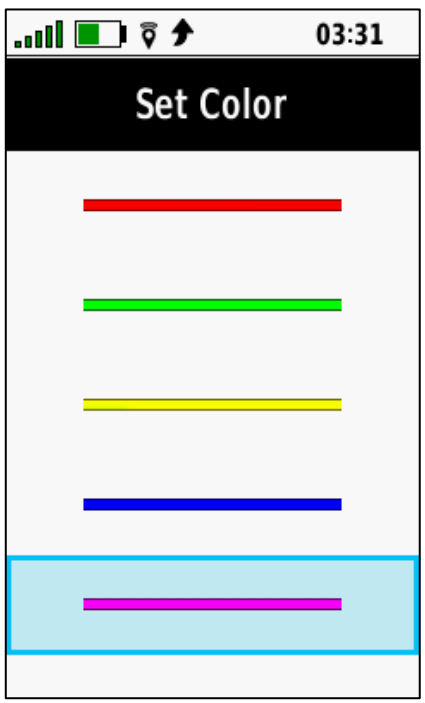
3.1.3.6 Optimizing Displays of a GPSMAP66i

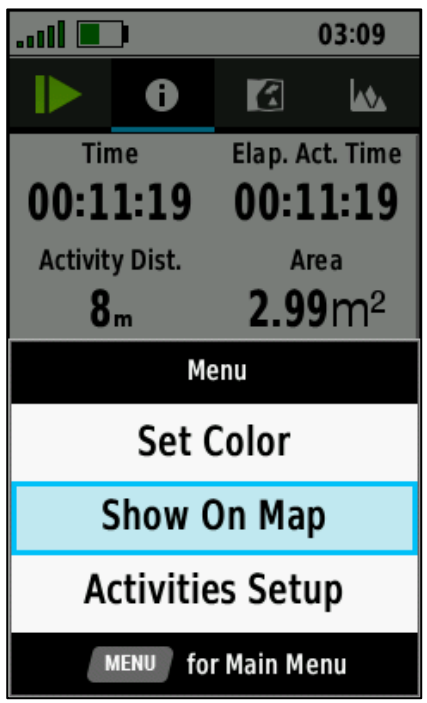
The GPSMAP66i offers more options to customize the display than the eTrex. This can be beneficial but also complicates using this device. In example the options how the currently walked and recorded track is displayed is rather hidden. To change the colour select Recording Controls, and then hit the Menu button to make your choices in a otherwise hidden submenu.











Pictures 432, 433, 434, 435 and 436: Suggested Power Conservation Settings for a Garmin GPSMAP66i

3.1.4 Backup Navigation Device: Smartphone

Relying on the Greater Patagonian Trail on a single electronic navigation device is negligent. A defect like a broken button can render the device useless. Also, loss and sudden technical failures have occurred more than once. In such an event someone may try to backtrack relying only on memory but if being towards the end of a section with the food reserves depleted this is not a viable option. Also, some parts of the route are too confusing to rely solely on memory.

Therefore, I urge all GPT hikers to carry in addition to a Garmin handheld GPS a backup navigation device. Setting up a smartphone for navigation on the GPT is the self-evident choice. This combines the advantages of both devices and compensates their deficiencies.

Apple iOS and Android smartphones are suitable for navigation. However, the choice of devices and the range of navigation apps is arguably larger for Android devices. It is even possible to buy Android smartphones which have been designed and built specifically for outdoor use (e.g. greater water/dust-proofing, larger batteries). For both operating systems, iOS and Android, excellent navigation apps available and many of them get continuously improved. These apps are either free or inexpensive for what they provide. You can have heated debates between hikers which app is the best and there is rarely an agreement.

A smart phone with a larger touchscreen facilitates a proper review of the route in a resupply town before commencing the next section(s) and each morning before departing. A smartphone can also be connected via Bluetooth with the InReach satellite communicator to read and type messages.

But not every smartphone is suitable for backcountry navigation. The phone must work flawless and be without performance issues (e.g. weak battery, faulty touchscreen or instable operating system). While an elderly phone with some performance issues might be annoying but tolerable in everyday life, it could lead to a potentially dangerous and life-threatening situations if relying upon it in the backcountry.

The smartphone must be properly protected against mechanical impacts, moisture, and dirt. While there are special “outdoor” smartphones available, it is usually not necessary to bring one of those. “Normal” phones can be prepared for outdoor use by placing them in special water-, dust- and impact-proof cases in example from Lifeproof or Otterbox that are available for some common Andoid devices and most iPhones. For all other models, the screen of the phone should be protected with a foil or better with a second layer of glass (usually sold as gorilla glass) and the back of the phone should be protected with a rugged silicone case. To securely shield the phone from water in rainy weather and during the numerous river crossings a transparent resealable plastic pouch is recommended. These small waterproof bags are specifically made for smartphone and do not disable the touchscreen so the phone can be operated without removing it from the pouch. Such smartphone watertight smartphone pouches are sold as water sports and surfing accessories.

The Garmin InReach Mini or InReach Explorer are not suitable backup navigation devices. The firmware makes it impossible to upload the GPT route network because the device has a build-in limit of only 25 tracks and 500 waypoints. We use our Garmin InReach Explorer exclusively for communication and to send our current position, so family and friends can follow our progress.

3.1.5 Practical Recommendations

3.1.5.1 Setup and Testing of Navigation Devices

If you do not have a Garmin handheld GPS yet, purchase it at latest 1 or 2 months before departing. Setup your device yourself and don’t ask a nerdy friend to do it for you. This will enable you to solve your GPS issues on the trail when you have nobody around to ask. The same applies to installing navigation apps on your smartphone and loading the GPT tracks into the app.

Hikers without abundant experience in using handhelds and smartphones for off-grid navigation should thoroughly test both devices in true-to-life trials. This is something that cannot be done on a work desk or balcony. A multi-day hike near home provides the ideal environment for testing the navigation and recording function. To simulate smartphone navigation without network coverage put the smartphone in airplane mode. Only this provides a good knowledge of the actual battery life while navigating and recording routes.

If you never recorded and downloaded a track with a GPS device, then test it before departing to the GPT. After hiking with the navigation device, download the GPX files, and review your hike on Google Earth. To view these tracks in Google Earth you must convert them into the KML or KMZ format. For this conversion use either Garmin Basecamp or a free online tools, in example www.gpsvisualizer.com.

Several hikers who attempted to walk on the GPT had to abort and backtrack because they were unable to manage the track display, did not setup topographic maps correctly or run out of power on the trail. A proper learning and testing period before the adventure on the GPT normally prevents such avoidable issues.

The plastic screen of a Garmin handheld GPS device is more robust than a typical smart phone glass screen but gets easily scratched. To maintain the screen in good condition I use a protective foil that can be replaced when worn.

For our Garmin handheld we always carry a backup Micro-SD card with a precise copy of all files in the same folder structure. Should the Micro-SD card fail, we can swap out the removable storage and hopefully the GPS starts working again. Or, if the GPS device gets lost a new GPS handheld can be purchased locally and used it with the backup Micro-SD card[82]. To reinstall the track files on a smartphone I carry a small USB stick with the track files and I also maintain a copy of the GPT track files in Dropbox.

Should you struggle to setup your navigation devices ask for technical support in the GPT Facebook group but expect that different hikers will praise different apps and recommend deviating settings.

[82] The recommended license-free topographic maps and the GPT track files are not bound to a specific device. Therefore, the Micro-SD card can be inserted in any compatible Garmin handheld GPS and these maps are automatically loaded on startup. The not recommended and rather expensive Garmin TOPO maps are licensed to a single unit only and inserting a micro-SD card into a different device with a deviating serial number will prevent loading the maps.

3.1.5.2 Placement of Navigation Device when Hiking and Packrafting

The GPS navigation device requires an unobstructed view of the sky to be precise and to minimize power consumption. If mountains, buildings and the hiker's body are in between a GPS satellite and the GPS receiver than the GPS signal from this satellite is blocked completely.

Therefore, a hip pocket is the wrong place for the actively used navigation device. The best location for the GPS is the backpack shoulder strap. When placed on top of the shoulder the GPS tracking is usually uninterrupted and accurate and the device remains easily accessible for frequent location verifications.

To prevent loss, the navigation device should be attached with a string to the backpack or secured in a device pocket on the shoulder strap.

Vegetation (dense forest), rain and clouds damp the GPS signal. Therefore, expect larger positioning errors in deep canyons, dense forests, and during heavy rain.



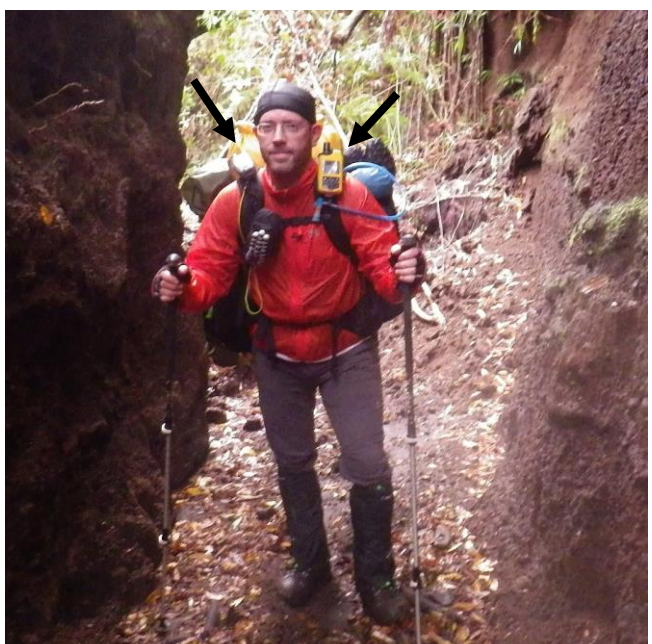
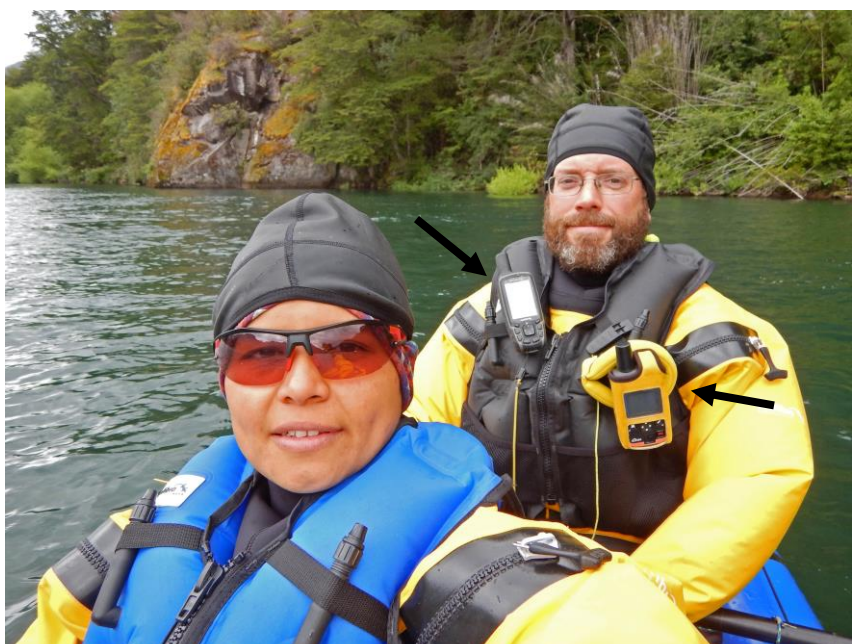
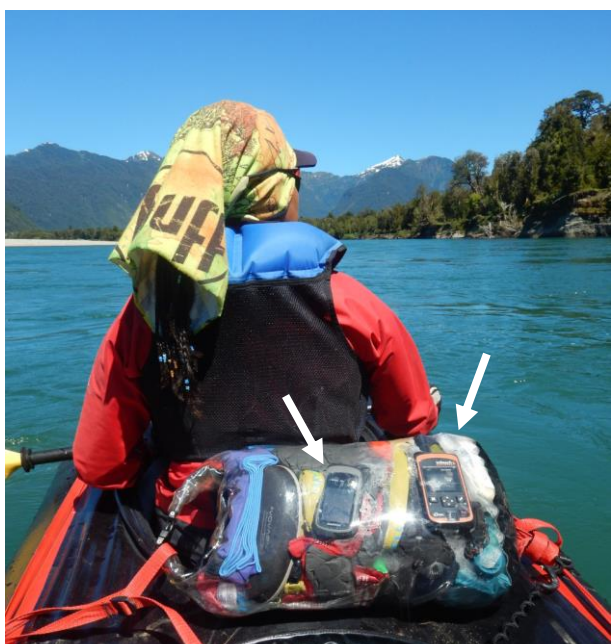


Picture 437 and 438: Self-made ribbon on backpack shoulder strap to carry the GPS in a location with unrestricted view to the sky. To secure the device against loss it remains hooked to the D-ring whenever moving.

When packrafting we attach a flotation device to the handheld device as the GPS is heavier than water and sinks if accidentally dropped into the water.

When packrafting rivers it is important to have the GPS within easy reach to not miss critical river exit points (several rivers require portages around dangerous rapids and waterfalls). Therefore, when river rafting, I keep the GPS in the pocket of the PFD (Personal Flotation Device) and secure it with a string to the PFD (in the pocket to minimize the entanglement hazard).

When packrafting lakes the GPS can either be attached to the PFD or the packraft as there are less entanglement hazards. When packrafting fjords I now place the GPS in a transparent bag to have the GPS screen permanently visible while protecting the GPS from saltwater.

Picture 439 and 440: Placement of navigation and satellite communication devices

3.1.5.3 Using the Navigation Device

When the GPS device is switched on it searches for the weak GPS signals. When receiving and recognizing the signals of at least 4 GPS satellites it calculates the current location. After starting the GPS device, it can take several minutes till the current location is precisely calculated and displayed. As more satellites are in range as more accurate the calculated location becomes.

Once the GPS device located itself it continuously tracks location changes and displays the current position without delay with a high accuracy. For this reason, the GPS should not be switched off after a location verification but remain in standby. We only switch the GPS off when taking breaks and between pitching the tent and leaving in the morning.

I do not experience the lower screen resolution of a handheld GPS as a practical drawback while hiking and packrafting[83]. On the trail I frequently verify if still being on route and when somewhat lost the GPS guides me back to the route. For this a small screen is fully sufficient. A high screen resolution is only required when reviewing satellite images. Therefore, I make most position verification in the backcountry with my handheld GPS and activate my smartphone only occasionally to check satellite images.

Carry enough spare batteries, powerbanks and consider the use of a solar panel to recharge. If running low on power switch the GPS completely off while the route is clearly visible. Make sure that also the power supply is redundant and that your navigation does not depend on a single piece of gear. For more to this topic see chapter 3.1.7 Batteries and Electrical Power Supply on page 1036.

[83] The Garmin eTrex series has a screen resolution of 240 x 320 and the GPSMAP66i offers 240 x 400 pixel. Common smartphones 1080 x 1920

3.1.6 Satellite Communication Device

I provided an introduction to communication devices in chapter 1.11.10 Communication on page 236.

Two highly recommended devices are:

- GPSMAP66i which combines satellite communication with a handheld GPS in one device
- Garmin InReach Mini which is the lightest and smallest suitable satellite communication device

Alternatively, the following two devices may be used:

- Garmin InReach SE+
- Garmin InReach Explorer+

Less suitable are:

- Globalstar SPOT Gen4
- Globalstar SPOT X

The Garmin InReach relies on the Iridium satellite network, which has a consistently good coverage that gets better towards the poles. Therefore, all Greater Patagonia is very well covered. This good coverage is archived by orbiting the roughly 70 to 80 active satellites over the poles and permanent inter-satellite-data-links. Read the Wikipedia article for more information.

The Globalstar satellite network used by the SPOT devices has a different setup. The number of active satellites is smaller compared to the Iridium network; the satellites does not circle over the poles and have no inter-satellite-data-links but require a data-link to a ground station to send and receive data. This results in a reduced coverage and black-out periods in Patagonia that become worse towards the south. Read the Wikipedia article to the Globalstar system to better understand these differences. Also, some Globalstar devices (i.e. the SPOT Gen4) can only send but not receive information limiting their usefulness further.

In one season we carried a Globalstar SPOT and a Garmin InReach and clearly noticed the difference. While the InReach successfully send our position signal every 10 minutes the Spot had black-outs lasting several hours even with clear view to the sky. Therefore, I do not trust the Globalstar coverage chart that claims that the entire Southern Cone is fully covered. Based on this experience I consider a Garmin InReach substantially more reliable than a Globalstar SPOT but a SPOT is still substantially better than just a mobile phone.

A Garmin InReach device comes with a price tag of 350 to 600 USD. In addition, a satellite data plan is needed. Garmin offers affordable monthly plans that can be purchased for just the required period. We opted for the “RECREATION” plan that includes SOS service, 40 text message per month, position tracking in 10 minutes intervals and weather forecasts for 35 USD per month (plus a 25 USD annual fee). This plan allows that our families and friend can constantly see where we are (position tracking) and we can occasional send and receive text message and request weather forecasts which are quite reliable. A cheaper option is the “SAFETY” plan for 15 USD per month (plus 25 USD annual fee) that includes SOS service only and all data service is payed as used. See the Garmin InReach page for more details.

3.1.7 Batteries and Electrical Power Supply

The optimal power supply on a long-distance hike is a subject with opposing opinions and a wide range of products that promise the solution. I try to analyse this subject with Engineering methods based on actual measurements and calculations to challenge my own habits and no fall victim to false advertisements and myths.

Before I dive into detail a brief explanation of the used terms and units[84]:

Voltage: Unit: Volt (V). If comparing different batteries and devices you should know the nominal Voltage. Non-rechargeable Alkaline and Lithium batteries provide approximately 1.5 V. Rechargeable NiMH batteries have a slightly lower voltage of about 1.2 V. Rechargeable Lithium-Ion batteries supply 3.7 V. All USB devices work with 5 V. This applies to USB power consumers and USB power banks with Lithium-Ion batteries. These power banks have electronics that steps up the voltage to 5 V. For more information see Table 163: Battery and power bank specifications on page 1042.

Electrical Current: Unit: Ampere (A) or Milliampere (mA). 1000 mA equals 1 A.

Electrical Power Consumption: The commonly used unit for small electrical devices is Watt (W) or Milliwatt (mW). 1000 mW equals 1 W. For DC consumers the power consumption can be calculated by multiplying the supply voltage with the required electrical current. In example a GPS device that is powered with two AA NiMH batteries (2 x 1.25 V) and draws a current of 50 mA has a power consumption of 125 mW (or 0.125 W). Manufacturers sometimes provide the power consumption in Ampere (A) or

[84] As an Engineer educated in Europe I use the international SI units (Meter, Kilometer, Kilogramm) and no imperial units (Foot, Miles, Ounces).

Milliampere (mA) what is scientifically incorrect but not an issue if the voltage is known. The conversion between current (A) and power (W) is made by multiplying the current with the voltage.

Electrical Energy Consumption: The technical correct unit is Watthour (Wh). Note the difference between power and energy: power (W) is the rate of consumption while energy (Wh) is the accumulated consumption. So the energy consumption is the summed-up power consumption over a given time span. If you want to compare power and energy with hiking than power is like the speed and energy is like the distance covered.

Stored Electrical Energy: The technical correct unit is Watthour (Wh) but battery manufacturers often use Milliamperehour (mAh) to indicate the capacity of a battery. This is scientifically incorrect but when comparing batteries of the same type this works. But when comparing different battery types the unit mAh is misguiding. A Lithium-Ion battery with a capacity of 1000 mAh stores more energy than a 2000 mAh NiMH battery because the Voltage of a Lithium-Ion battery is higher. A Lithium-Ion battery with a 1000 mAh capacity contains roughly 3.7 Wh while a 2000 mAh NiMH battery contains only 2.4 Wh. Note that USB power banks are not rated based on the output voltage but based on the capacity of the internal Lithium-Ion battery.

Specific Stored Energy: The technical correct unit is Watthour per Kilogramm (Wh/kg). This number tells how much electrical energy is stored in relation to the weight of the battery or power pack. You can calculate the specific stored energy of a battery by dividing the stored electrical energy (Wh) by the weight of the battery (kg). As a hiker you obviously want this number to be high, to have as much as possible energy packed into as little as possible weight. But the battery chemistry puts physical limits to this. Understanding this helps to identify obviously false advertisements. I.e. if someone offers an AA NiMH battery with a capacity of 3500 mAh he scams. See Table 163: Battery and power bank specifications on page 1042 for more detailed information.

Energy Transfer Efficiency: When charging an electrical device i.e. with a power bank some losses occur. A part of the energy will no end up in the charged device i.e. the smartphone battery but get lost in form of heat while charging. The common unit for efficiency is Percent. An energy transfer efficiency of 75% means that only ¾ of the stored electrical energy ends up in the charged battery. When charging a device from the grit in a town you do not need to worry about this, but when charging a device on the trail with a power pack this becomes relevant.

Effective Stored Electrical Energy: Unit: Watthour (Wh). This is the amount of the electrical energy of a power bank that ends up the in the charged device when considering the losses of the energy transfer process.

Generated Electrical Power: Unit: Watt (W). Today a wide range of outdoor gear promises a free recharge of your electrical consumers on the trail. Most common are solar panels but also water and wind turbines pushed on the market. The most weird gear I have seen is a stoves that promise to produce electrical energy using the thermoelectric effect. The power might be free but always comes with a weight penalty. Therefore the following is of importance:

Specific Power Generation: Unit: Watt per Kilogram (W/kg). This is the actual archived power output divided by the weight of the device. This number shows the difference between a gadget that just appears cool and an actual useful piece of gear.

3.1.7.1 Electrical Energy Consumption

The actual electrical energy consumption during a long-distance hike depends on the electronic consumers and their use.

A **Garmin handheld GPS device** has a energy consumption of **1.5 Wh to 2.5 Wh per day**[85] if the previously recommended power saving settings are applied. One pair of AA batteries lasts therefore:

- 2 x NiMH Rechargeable Batteries (2 x 2.2 - 3.0 Wh): 2 to 3 days
- 2 x Alkaline Non-Rechargeable Batteries (2 x 3.0 - 4.2 Wh): 3 to 4 days
- 2 x Lithium Non-Rechargeable Batteries (2 x 4.5 - 5.25 Wh): 4 to 5 days

The power consumption of a **Garmin InReach Satellite Pager** is quite low even in tracking mode. When using it in the “Extended Tracking” mode the device consumes approximately **1 Wh per day**. In the “Extended Tracking” mode the device sends the current position every 10 minutes, but Bluetooth and GPS recording remains deactivated. And of cause, switching the device off while not moving is advisable to maximize the battery life. If an InReach is use in emergencies only then normally no battery power is consumed. This means recharging the InReach on the trail is not necessarily required and can be avoided by minimizing the use i.e. by extending the tracking interval to 1 hour or deactivating tracking completely. Below the capacity of the internal Lithium-Ion battery and the approximate running time with 10-minute tracking in the “Extended Tracking” mode:

- InReach Mini with an internal 1250 mAh battery (4.6 Wh): Approximately 5 days
- Newer InReach SE+ and Explorer+ models with an internal 2900 mAh battery (10.7 Wh): Approximately 10 days

[85] The typical energy consumption is estimated based on the actual experienced battery lifetime of a few hikers (including me) that did not necessarily apply all the recommended power-saving settings, or used new healthy NiMH batteries or used the more basic Garmin GPS devices of the eTrex series. Therefore, the actual energy consumption is probably closer to 1.5 Wh per day than to the mentioned upper limit. I will update these numbers once I receive more feedbacks from other hikers that used eTrex20x or eTrex30x devices and applied all the recommended power-saving settings. In the following calculations I will assume a daily GPS energy consumption of 2 Wh per day which probably includes a reasonable safety margin.

- Older InReach SE and Explorer models with an internal 2450 mAh battery (9.1 Wh): Approximately 10 days

The energy consumption of a **smartphone** is generally higher and varies substantially depending on the model and how it gets used. I assume that everyone knows that intense use can consume one full battery charge per day but keeping it in airplane mode with the GPS deactivated will make the internal battery last quite long. The internal Lithium-Ion batteries have depending on the model a capacity between 1’800 and a little over 3’000 mAh what corresponds with 7 to 12 Wh of stored energy. So, the smartphone energy consumption ranges from virtually **0 to about 12 Wh per day**. This high variability makes it difficult to issue specific recommendations what recharge method is optimal.

If a smartphone is used as the primary navigation device, then the actual energy consumption should be carefully tested before the hike to have a good knowledge how many recharges are required on the longest planned sections. This test should measure the actual energy consumption of the smartphone with continuous track recording as this is part of the terms and condition for using the track files. In the following comparison with GPS devices I will assume a daily energy consumption of 5 Wh per day if the smartphone is as primary navigation device what corresponds to one full battery charge for about 2 hiking days. Note, that the actual energy consumption with continuous recording may be even higher. For this reason I use my smartphone only as a backup navigation device in specific circumstances when reviewing satellite images or a high screen resolution is required. A basic handheld GPS simply consumes much less energy than a smartphone and minimizes therefore the total weight.

The additional energy consumption of a **flash light** and a **camera** (if carried in addition to the smartphone) adds to this energy bill.

Knowing your personal electrical energy consumption is important to correctly plan the required amount of batteries and to select

the appropriate size of a power bank and/or power generation devices. Therefore I encourage every hiker that plans an adventure on the GPT to measure the actual power consumption of his devices before departing. The device running time with a full battery can be tested by selecting the to recommended power saving mode and simply monitor how long the device keeps running till the battery is depleted and the device faints out. This test verifies the actual capacity of the internal battery and the consumption of the device. When recharging the device, you can measure the power consumption by plugging an USB power monitor in between the USB charger and the tested device. These USB metering devices are cheep, simple to use and readily available online.

An inexpensive recommendable USB power monitor is the PortaPow Dual USB Power Monitor.

If you run low on power or navigate with your backup navigation device you should completely switched off the handheld GPS or put the smartphone in airplane mode and deactivate GPS recording whenever the route is sufficiently visible.

3.1.7.2 Batteries and Power Banks

The most versatile way to carry electrical energy are batteries. The following table shows the characteristics of commonly used and recommendable battery types and USB power banks.

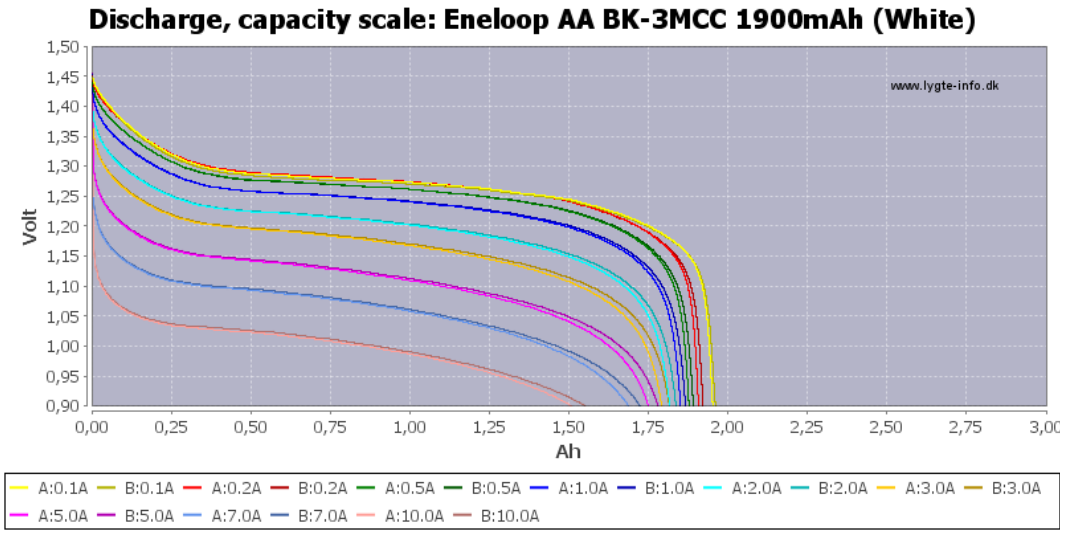
Battery Type	Stored Energy	Weight	Specific Stored Energy	Nominal Voltage	Actual Range	Comment
Rechargeable AA Batteries						
AA NiMH Battery	2.2 – 3.0 Wh 1’800 – 2’500 mAh	25 g	85 – 120 Wh/kg	1.2 V	1.4 – 1.1 V	New quality NiMH batteries have a capacity of 2’000 – 2’500 mAh but over time and with frequent use this drops.
Non-Rechargeable AA Batteries						
AA Alkaline Battery	3.0 – 4.2 Wh 2’000 – 2’800 mAh	23 g	130 – 180 Wh/kg	1.5 V	1.6 – 1.1 V	Alkaline batteries are good for devices with a low power consumption (GPS).
AA Lithium Battery	4.5 – 5.25 Wh 3’000 – 3’500 mAh	15 g	300 – 350 Wh/kg	1.5 V	1.8 – 1.5 V	Lithium batteries have the highest specific energy but are more costly.
Other Rechargeable Batteries and Power Banks						
Lithium-Ion Battery	Depending on size	Depending on size	Approximately 200 Wh/kg	3.7 V	4.1 – 3.7 V	Most devices with build in batteries have Lithium-Ion batteries installed.
5000 mA Power Bank	Nominal 18.5 Wh Effective 13 - 15 Wh	120 – 150 g	Nominal 125 – 200 Wh/kg Effective 100 – 160 Wh/kg	5.0 V	5.0 V	USB power banks are specified based on the capacity of the internal Lithium-Ion batteries (3.7 V) and not the output voltage (5.0 V) of the USB port.
10’000 mA Power Bank	Nominal 37 Wh Effective 26 - 30 Wh	180 – 240 g		5.0 V	5.0 V	

Table 163: Battery and power bank specifications

3.1.7.2.1 Rechargeable NiMH Batteries

Be aware that the battery voltage depends on the charging state, the temperature and the load during use (consumer). When fully charged the voltage is slightly higher than the nominal voltage. During use the voltage drops. By measuring the voltage the battery state can be estimated.

This is particular helpful when using rechargeable NiMH batteries. A fully charged NiMH battery provides 1.4 V at an ambient temperature of approx. 20 ºC (open-circuit voltage). At the beginning of the discharge cycle (first 10% of capacity) the voltage drops quickly to 1.3 V where the “plateau” starts. Once the plateau is reached the voltage slowly decreases during use to about 1.2 V (80% of capacity). When the battery is nearly empty the voltage drops again sharply (last 10% of capacity).



Picture 441: NiMH battery discharge curve. For GPS devices the discharge current is typical 0.1 A or less therefore the highest curve of the diagram is applicable. Image: lygte-info.dk

To maximize the life of rechargeable NiMH batteries the following should be observed:

- For the GPS use pairs of batteries that you always charge and use together (best mark the batteries i.e. A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2 to easily identify pair A, B, C and D). Don’t mix a fully charged battery with a half-empty battery in the GPS. This makes your GPS faint quickly and may damage the batteries permanently (reverse-charging).

- Don’t overcharge batteries. This is best done by charging two pairs of equally empty batteries together in the Goal Zero Guide 10 charger (With the Goal Zero device you must charge 4 batteries together otherwise this charger does not work. By combining 4 batteries with a similar discharge state the charger works more effective and the batteries suffer less.)

- Don’t overheat batteries. Keep the batteries in a shady and ventilated location when charging. The gear pockets on the back of a solar panel is not suitable to hold the charger while charging.

- Be aware, that poor copies of brand batteries are sold in dodgy places (eBay, street vendors, ...) that have often a much lower capacity than advertised. Therefore, get your NiMH batteries before your trip in a trustworthy location. I made good experiences with the eneloop NiMH batteries (2’000 mAh) and the four NiMH batteries that come with Goal Zero Guide 10 plus charger (2’300 mAh).

- Be careful with high-capacity NiMH batteries that are rated with more than 2’000 mAh. These batteries are more sensible to over-charging or reverse-charging what can accidentally happen if two batteries with different discharge states are mixed in one device. I will test on my next investigation trip the eneloop Pro batteries with a rated capacity of 2’500 mAh. They are more fragile so let’s see how they behave in the field!

I fabricated a tiny ultra-light voltmeter from simple of-the-shelf electronics that I use on my hikes to monitor the state of my NiMH batteries. This helps to combine batteries of a similar discharge stage to recharge these batteries effectively without overcharging them.

3.1.7.2.2 Non-Rechargeable Alkaline Batteries

To be issued.

3.1.7.2.3 Non-Rechargeable Lithium Batteries

To be issued.

3.1.7.2.4 Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Batteries

To be issued.

3.1.7.2.5 USB Power Banks

The only lossless method to “recharge” a depleted device is changing batteries. This is one reason why I prefer a Garmin GPS device over smartphones. A battery change takes seconds and no electrical energy is lost.

In contrast, charging a smartphone or an InReach device with a USB power bank is not lossless. My measurements showed me that only 70% - 80% of the energy ends up in the charged battery and 20% - 30% of the energy is converted into useless heat during the energy transfer process. These losses are unavoidable due to the battery chemistry and the power consumption of the electronics in the power bank and the charged device.[86] This means that a 10’000 mAh power bank with a rated capacity of 37 Wh

[86] I estimate that about one third of the losses (7% to 10%) occur in the power bank by stepping up the voltage from the internal Lithium-Ion battery (3.7 V) to the USB voltage (5.0 V). The remaining two third of the losses (13% to 20%) occur in the charged device when transforming the USB voltage (5.0 V) into the appropriate charging voltage (4.25 V) for the internal Lithium-Ion battery and by losses in the charged battery itself (internal battery resistance). The rule of thumb is: As warmer your devices become while charging as higher are the losses.

equals 26 – 30 Wh in your smartphone and InReach. Therefore, the effective specific stored energy of a USB power bank with Lithium-Ion batteries (100 – 160 Wh/kg) tends to be slightly lower than the specific stored energy of AA Alkaline batteries (130 – 180 Wh/kg) and not much better than NiMH batteries (75 – 120 Wh/kg). Non-rechargeable Lithium Batteries (300 – 350 Wh/kg) are clearly on top of the list when minimizing weight.

Calculation examples:

- Fully charging an InReach Mini with an internal 1’250 mAh (1.25 Ah) Lithium-Ion battery:
  Stored Electrical Energy of internal battery: 1.25 Ah x 3.7 V = 4.6 Wh
  Required power bank energy for recharging with a 75% Energy Transfer Efficiency: 4.6 Wh / 0.75 ≈ 6 Wh
  This corresponds to 1’650 mAh of the nominal power bank capacity

- Fully charging an iPhone 7 with an internal 1’960 mAh (1.96 Ah) Lithium-Ion battery:
  Stored Electrical Energy of internal battery: 1.96 Ah x 3.7 V = 7.3 Wh
  Required power bank energy for recharging with a 75% Energy Transfer Efficiency: 7.3 Wh / 0.75 ≈ 10 Wh
  This corresponds to 2’650 mAh of the nominal power bank capacity

When using a USB power bank with Lithium-Ion batteries consider the following:

- Select your power bank wisely. Compare weight and capacity before purchase. Stylish slim power banks may look nice but have typically a worse specific energy rating (more weight for the same capacity).

- Avoid discharging Lithium-Ion completely. Better top up your smart phone and InReach when the remaining power drops below 25%. Lithium-Ion batteries do not suffer from a “memory-effect” like the obsolete Nickel-Cadmium batteries but dislike deep discharges. It is better to recharge a Lithium-Ion battery several times instead of fully discharging a battery and then recharging the battery completely.

- I suspect that bringing the internal battery of a smartphone or an InReach all the way up to 100% results in more losses. Therefore, if recharging such a device with a power bank on the trail, stop charging once reaching about 90% battery charge. Of cause, this does not apply when charging a device from the grit during a resupply stop in a town. Then get everything fully charged.

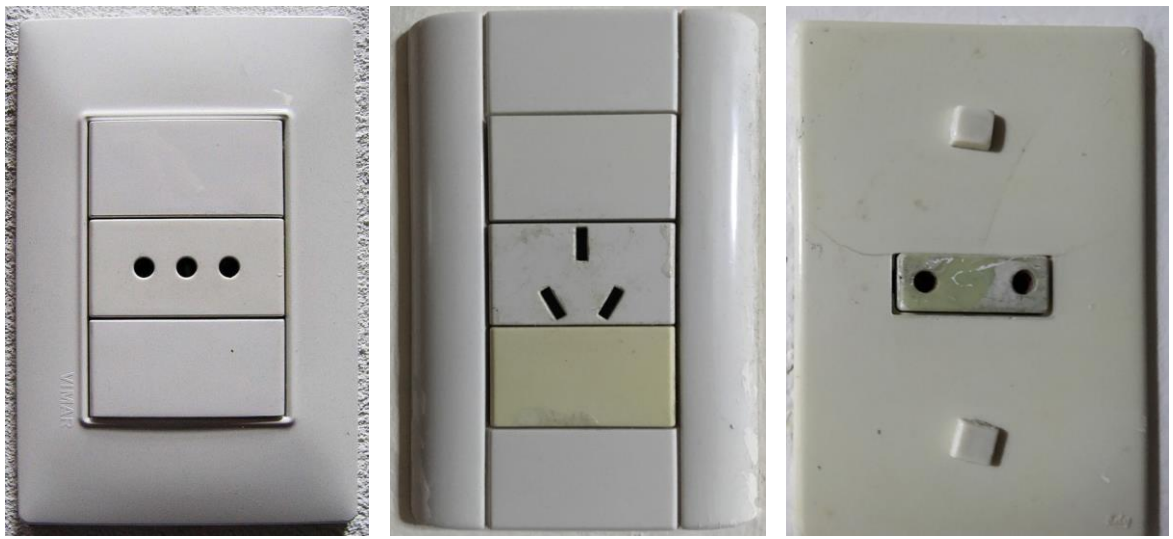
- If using a power bank to recharge the InReach and a smartphone keep some reserve in the power bank to later choose depending on circumstances for what you need the energy more. Navigation or communication in case of an emergency.

The Goal Zero Guide 10 plus AA NiMH battery charger can also be used as a power bank but the efficiency is much lower compared to a power bank with Lithium-Ion batteries. For more information to this gadget see 3.1.7.4.2 USB AA NiMH Battery Charger on page 1056.

3.1.7.3 USB Charger

A USB charger is required to recharge the smartphone and the USB power bank during resupply town visits. In Chile and Argentina, the same voltage and grit frequency is used (220 V / 50 Hz) but both nations have different sockets. In Chile a USB charger with an Europlug works perfectly fine. For Argentina an additional Type I adapter may be useful.

To shorten charging time a high-power 2 A charger is preferable over a standard 1 A USB charger. The weight difference is not significant. A1 A USB charger weights typically 30 g. A 2 A charger can be as light as 36 g.



Picture 442, 443 and 444:
Left: Standard in Chile (Type L, CEI 23-16 VII. Same as Italia and Uruguay)
Center: Current Standard in Argentina (Type I, AS 3112. Same as Australia)
Right: Older Standard in Argentina (Type C, Europlug)
Image: Martín Lizondo

3.1.7.4 Solar Panels and Other Outdoor Power Generators

Generating electrical energy on the trail sounds cool and is a tempting option. In the following I will analyse 3 power generation devices and calculate the approximate break-even point from which carrying such a device becomes beneficial. The results of this analysis might surprise.

3.1.7.4.1 Solar Panels

A wide range of outdoor solar panels with USB outlets are available now. Testing them all is practically impossible, but I measured and compared about 10 devices from various manufactures in recent years. The following analysis is based on these performance measurements and not the often exaggerated manufacturer specifications.

My first and most important lesson learned is: Don’t trust the advertised power output. Most of these numbers are exaggerated and I also noticed substantial variations between seemingly equal devices from the same manufacturer. I made my worst experience with the Goal Zero Nomad 7 Plus with a rated output power of 7 W. When delivered it supplied 1.5 to 2 W in bright sunlight with a perfect vertical alignment to the sun. After about 4 weeks on the trail it died completely (less than 0.1 W) presumable due to failed internal contacts (no external damage evident). Therefore, be sceptical and measure the actual performance of your solar panel before relying on it. This can be done easily with the previously recommended USB power monitor. Don’t trust blinking charging lights as these start blinking with a tiny trickle charge. Measure the actual charging current and trust only values that you measured yourself.

To charge smartphones, AA NiMH batteries and power banks with solar power in a reasonable time a panel with a USB outlet and a power output of approximately 5 W is needed. Such a panel provides a charging current of 1 A when vertical alignment to the sun on a cloudless day and not too high ambient temperatures. It still supplies a few hundred mA under less favourable condition, i.e. when charging while hiking with the panel fixed to the backpack what normally results in a suboptimal alignment to the sun.

Bigger solar panels make only sense if you have an unusual high power consumption i.e. when:

- carrying and using a tablet on the trail,
- relying on recharging in less favourable condition (areas with normally cloudy weather),
- travelling in a bigger group with more power-hungry smartphones and cameras or
- if you don't need to care much about weight (packrafting with very little hiking).

Based on multiple tests I conclude that a good outdoor solar panel has a specific power generation of roughly 20 W/kg. So a panel with a 5 W power output weights around 250 g.

In addition to the solar panel a AA NiMH battery charger is required. I recommend[87] the Goal Zero Guide 10 plus device that weights 64 g. The bonus feature of this device is that it can also be used as a USB power bank by discharging AA NiMH batteries. But the Goal Zero charger comes with the disadvantage that it charges only 4 NiMH batteries together. Alternatively use the EBL USB Quick Charger. The advantage of the EBL charger is that it charges individual batteries (a single battery if you want) and that it charges faster if you have enough USB power (i.e. if you have up to 2 A USB input current in towns or with a bigger solar panel). But the EBL charger can not be used as a power bank. The weight of the EBL charger is with 68 g nearly identical. For more information to these USB AA NiMH chargers see 3.1.7.4.2 USB AA NiMH Battery Charger on page 1056.

In addition, a sufficiently long Mini-USB cable is required. While charging, the batteries should not be "cooked" in the sunlight or

[87] The Goal Zero Guide 10 plus is the only piece of equipment I can recommend from Goal Zero. Most Goal Zero solar panels that I tested showed a terrible performance and reliability. Especially the new Goal Zero Nomad 7 plus was very disappointing. Instead of the advertised 7 W it provided during the first test mere 1.5 W and after a few weeks it was completely death.

the pocket on the back of the hot solar panel. There the batteries deteriorate quickly.

To charge four NiMH batteries while hiking you need two additional NiMH batteries for your GPS. So you must carry at least six NiMH batteries to have also enough backup power for a series of cloudy and rainy days.

So, a 5 W solar panel set with a charger, a cable and sufficient batteries weights at least 475 g:

- 5 W solar panel: Approximately 250 g
- AA battery charger: 65 g
- Mini-USB cable: 10 g
- 6 x AA NiMH batteries: 6 x 25 g = 150 g

This provides a good baseline to calculate the break-even point at which carrying a solar panel becomes beneficial. I do this by assembling hypothetical non-solar power supply sets of a similar weight. Only if all of these hypothetical sets would still be insufficient than a solar panel becomes beneficial.

- Option 1: 20 Alkaline batteries (460 g). This hypothetical set provides roughly 30 days of power for the GPS device but no recharge for the smart phone or InReach.

- Option 2: A 10’000 mAh USB Power Bank and 10 Alkaline batteries (Approximately 440 g). This hypothetical set provides roughly 15 days of power for the GPS device, two smartphone and two InReach Mini recharges.

- Option 3: A 5’000 mAh USB Power Bank, 10 NiMH batteries and an AA NiMH battery charger with a cable (Approximately 460 g). This is a hypothetical set of someone that opts for rechargeable AA NiMH batteries instead of Alkaline batteries for environmental and/or cost reasons while recharging the AA NiMH batteries in towns only. This hypothetical set provides roughly 10 days of power for the GPS device, one smartphone and one InReach Mini recharge.

Comparing the 5 W solar panel kid with these three non-solar options shows pretty clearly that the break even-point for a solar panel is far down the trail. Walking 10 to 15 days without resupplying is only required on the longest sections and a solar panel pays really off when exceeding this duration.

Conclusion 1: **For someone that hikes light and fast a solar panel is rarely beneficial.**

There are other motives that may make a solar panel beneficial: cost cutting, an unusual high power consumption on the trail, autarky and slowness.

Minimizing costs: A overnight town-stop with a proper bed is something that most hikers enjoy but hikers with a tight budget might prefer to just buy food and return to the trail immediately. A solar panel eliminates the dependence on power sockets what helps to cut town time and no money must be spend on batteries.

Unusual high power consumption: Smartphone junkies will suffer on the GPT as there is little connectivity. But some hikers will probably still find reasons and opportunities to spend “quality time” with their smartphone on the trail. A solar panel helps covering the resulting power consumption. This applies also to hikers that carry and use a tablet computer on the trail.

Autarky and slowness: The primary range limitation when hiking is food; it's the fuel for the body and we can carry only a certain amount in our backpacks. If someone gets extra food along the trail, he extends his range and postpones the moment at which me must eventually bail out to resupply.

Resupplying at the section start or section end is often possible in the far north and in the south but from GPT05 to GPT12 and from section GPT19 to GPT21 hikers "normally" need to take a bus to get to a proper resupply town further away. Such a resupply trip can take up to 3 days.

I used the word "normally" because there is a trick how to remain on the trail in this particular scenic and hiking-friendly area: purchase food from the *arrieros*, the native *Pehuenche* and settlers that live during the summer on the trail. There are also a few kiosks or mini shops in the tiny settlements on the trail that sell some basic supplies. At the right time you may also harvest piñones on sections GPT10 to GPT16 which provides plenty of free carbohydrates. So, in these areas food is easier to obtain than electricity. If you have a solar panel to recharge your electronics you can use these unplannable opportunities to get some additional food to remain longer on the trail. We frequently use such informal resupplies to stay 2 to 3 weeks on the trail, often with relaxing "zero" and "nero" days in company with residents on the trail. Our solar panel helped us to keep our electronics fully charged to not worry about remaining power. When being a guest at a *puesto* a solar has a bonus feature: you can offer to charge the mobile phones of your hosts.

Conclusion 2: **A solar panel adds autonomy and permits slowing down if you get enough extra calories on the trail.**

Should you opt for a **solar panel** consider the following **best practices and lessons learned**:

- Don’t buy a solar panel with a build-in battery (integrated power bank). This only seams handy but is not. While charging the battery inevitably overheats what quickly deteriorates the battery. Also, if just one of the two components deteriorates you have to scrap both.

- I prefer foldable solar panels as they are more robust during transport. A single thin panel needs more care as it is easily crushed in the backpack. But a single panel without folds is easier to set up and to align to the sun. Choose whatever you find appropriate for you.

- I know I repeat myself, but this is really important: Test your panel before relying on it! Rated values are normally exaggerated. You probably need to purchase a panel that is rated as 7 W or 10 W to get the recommended 5 W power output. Best use one of these tiny USB power monitors that indicate voltage and current to verify the actual performance after purchase.

- Align your solar panel vertical to the sun when charging. To find the optimal angle tilt and rotate the panel to created the larges possible shade on the ground. The largest shadow means the most sun on the panel. When charging while hiking choose a suitable average position for the solar panel on the backpack.

- While charging, connect the charged device(s) with a long enough cable to the solar panel to keeps your charged gadget(s) in a shady and ventilated location. Avoid placing the charged devices in the pockets on the back of the solar panel. These pockets might be useful to carry your charging gear while not using the panel but not when charging.

- Carrying a USB power monitor on the trail is also handy to optimize the orientation of the panel to the sun and to check what

is happening in suboptimal conditions i.e. cloudy weather. If you see that the charging current is unreasonable low don't hazzle yourself with fruitless charging attempts. Many USB power monitors have two USB outlets. This makes the power monitor a handy "splitter" to charge two devices simultaneously from one USB outlet (i.e. in towns).

- Some smartphones react oddly to variable charging currents. If the USB power output is temporary reduced these devices readjust to the reduced power output and continue charging with the reduced current even if the USB power output recovers to a higher level. If i.e. a cloud passes the solar power output drops and when the sunshine is back the smart phone uses only a fraction of the available power. This effect is particular annoying when charging while walking. The changing orientation and the shade of trees along the trail inevitably results in a fluctuating power output.

  A power monitor helps to recognize and to respond to this effect. If this happens simply unplug and replug the charged device. Smarter solar panels have build-in electronics that do this automatically.

- Another barely known effect is the solar panel response to a partial shading. If i.e. 10% of the solar panel surface is covered the power output drops typically much more than just 10%. I tested solar panels that loose around 90% of the power output when 10% of the solar panel surface is in the shade. It needs a special solar panel configuration and a good electronics to minimize this effect. If you have a USB power monitor you can verify yourself how your panel reacts to partial shading.

- Be aware that solar panels work best at lower temperatures. This makes a bright fresh morning the best time for charging. Just take make sure to tilt the solar panel enough to harvest the maximum amount of energy while the sun is low.

With my mixed experience I'm reluctant to recommend a specific item or brand. I made reasonable good experiences with solar panels sold by Anker but they only offer panels that are a bit bigger and heavier than actually needed. The Anker "15 W" solar panel has a maximum output of about 8 W and the weight is close to 400 g. A bit oversized for a group of two.

3.1.7.4.2 USB AA NiMH Battery Charger

Any outdoor power generator requires in addition a suitable AA NiMH charger to use the generated electrical energy in a handheld GPS device. In the previous chapter I briefly mentioned the Goal Zero Guide 10 plus and the EBL USB Quick Charger.

If you carry a **Goal Zero Guide 10 plus** AA NiMH battery charger with your power generation device calculate with the following charging and discharging efficiencies and currents:

- Maximum USB charging current: 0.8 A (rated and measured)
  Even if you have more power available the Goal Zero charger will not "draw" more than 0.8 A from the USB port. This corresponds to 4 W. Therefore, a solar panel bigger than 5 W is only beneficial in suboptimal conditions if used with this AA NiMH battery charger (charging while hiking or charging in cloudy weather). Fully charging 4 depleted NiMH batteries takes around 4 to 6 hours depending on the battery capacity. Note that the charging rate towards the end of the charging cycle is relatively low. Therefore I often stop the charging when the green light starts blinking fast.

- Goal Zero Charging Efficiency: 65% to 70%
  To fully charge 4 depleted AA NiMH batteries with a capacity of 2'000 mAh (4 x 2.4 Wh) roughly 14 to 15 Wh are required.

- Goal Zero Power Bank Mode Efficiency: 60% to 75%
  If using 4 fully charged AA NiMH batteries with a capacity of 2'000 mAh (4 x 2.4 Wh) roughly 6 to 7 Wh of USB power can be generated. If the charged USB device "draws" a lower current (0.5 A or less i.e. the InReach Mini) the energy transfer is more efficient (closer to 75%). Connecting bigger consumers (1 A or more like smartphones) makes the power bank mode of the Goal Zero charger rather inefficient (closer to 60%).

- Alkaline batteries should not be used to generate USB power with a Goal Zero Guide 10 due to an even lower efficiency caused by the poor Alkaline battery behaviour at a high discharge current. Efficiency is likely to be less than 40% so more than half of the energy is converted into useless heat.

- Lithium batteries may be used as an emergency backup to generate USB power with a Goal Zero Guide 10. If using 4 Lithium batteries with a capacity of 3'000 mAh (4 x 4.5 Wh) approximately 11 to 13 Wh of USB power can be generated. Since Lithium batteries behave well at high discharge currents this conversion is reasonable efficient.

If carrying an **EBL USB Quick Charger** calculate with the following charging efficiencies and currents:

- Maximum USB charging current: 2.1 A (rated) / 1.7 A (measured)
  Fully charging 4 depleted NiMH batteries takes around 2 to 3.5 hours depending on the battery capacity.

- EBL USB Quick Charger Charging Efficiency: Approximately 45%
  To fully charge 4 depleted AA NiMH batteries with a capacity of 2'000 mAh (4 x 2.4 Wh) roughly 21 Wh are required.

3.1.7.4.3 Bio Lite CampStove

I recently stumbled in an outdoor shop over a piece of gear that also promises to charge electronics in the outdoors: the Bio Lite CampStove. This stove promises to produce electrical energy using the thermoelectric effect. All you need are small pieces of wood to recharge your gadgets while cooking with fire. Here the link: https://eu.bioliteenergy.com/products/campstove-2

This sounds cool? Certainly! But before getting excited let's analyse it. The manufacturer specification states that the weight is 935 g and that the peak power output is 3 W. So, it would feel like a heavy stone in the backpack and when reading "peak power" I instantly know that I should not expect this output under normal conditions. So, let's assume that an average power output of 2 W can be maintained over some time. 2 W out of 1 kg of gear means a specific power generation of 2 W/kg.

Compare it with a solar panel: A solar panel has 10 times the specific power output (20 W/kg). Therefore, a solar panel with the same power output would weight just 100 g and you do not need to throw constantly wood chips into it. I would go for the panel!

Let's calculate how long it would take to charge a smartphone with a typical 2'000 mAh battery. 2'000 mAh corresponds to 7.4 Wh stored energy (you remember 2 Ah x 3.7 V = 7.4 Wh). If considering a charging efficiency of around 80% you need to produce at least 9 Wh of electrical energy to get if fully charged. With an average output of 2 W it would take 4 to 5 hours of keeping the stove running to recharge an empty smart phone. I would be annoyed!

A comparison with a power bank is even more embarrassing for the Bio Lite CampStove. A USB power bank of the same weight has an effective stored energy of up to 160 Wh. To produce the same amount of energy you need to run the Bio Lite CampStove somewhere around 100 h when assuming an average power output of 2 W and a charging efficiency of 80%.

If used 2 to 3 hours per day it produces only 4 to 6 Wh per day what would be barely be enough to keep a GPS and a InReach device running (considering the Goal Zero Charging Efficiency of 65% to 70%).

I can look at this piece of gear from whatever angle and I can't see under what circumstances it provides a true benefit. Therefore, carrying the Bio Lite CampStove on a hike proves only the inability or unwillingness to analyse. So, for me this is a useless toy for adults that want to play the outdoor guy!

3.1.7.4.4 WaterLily Turbine

There is another power generator that recently pushed on the market: the WaterLily Turbine. The designers suggest using it in fast flowing rivers or hung up in a tree to harvest wind energy. Here the link: https://waterlilyturbine.com/products/waterlily-turbine.

According to the manufacturers specification the weight is 1.3 kg and the peak power output is 15 W. Again, peak power means that a bit less should be expected. I will assume an average power generation of 10 W for my analysis. With 1.3 kg it's heavy but with approximately 10 W output it produces more than a trickle charge.

The specific power generation of the WaterLily Turbine is 8 W/kg. Much better than the Bio Lite CampStove (2 W/kg) but still inferior to solar panels (20 W/kg). Therefore there is no reason to carry this turbine in areas with enough sunshine. Solar panels come with the additional benefit that you can choose the size you actually need. This does not apply to the turbine; you can't carry half the turbine if you just need half the power.

The advantage of this turbine is that it works without constant attention like a solar panel and unlike like the Bio Lite CampStove

that needs to be constantly feed with wood chips. So, someone can set it up when pitching camp and let it run over night hoping that it does not rain too heavy to find the turbine in the morning blocked by leaves and twigs or even flushed away.

If used every second night for 10 hours it produces 100 Wh per use or 50 Wh per day in average. Finding every night a spot with suitable conditions for this gear is not realistic and 50 Wh per day is still much more than a typical hiker or packrafter possibly needs. So in most cases it would be overkill.

Let’s compare this turbine with a power bank of the same weight. 1.3 kg of power banks store up to 200 Wh effective energy. This corresponds to running the turbine twice for 10 hours. That’s not bad but only useful if you really need a lot of electrical power. And I mean a lot!

So the WaterLily Turbine is no complete non-sense like the Bio Lite CampStove. But carrying this turbine only pays of under very specific circumstances. It makes only sense in regions with insufficient sunshine. This might be the case when packrafting or seakayaking in the Patagonian fjords otherwise a solar panel is more effective and practical. And it is only beneficial on a rather long trip of a bigger group or for activities that require lots of electrical power i.e. when filming with (semi-)professional gear.

3.1.7.5 Conclusion

The previous analysis showed that there is no “one-size-fits-all-solution” but that hikers must make individual choices that match personal preferences and hiking habits. Also the chosen sections should be considered. Sunshine is frequent in the north (GPT01 to GPT15) and on the Argentine side (GPT23 to GPT26) making a solar panel more beneficial on these sections. In other areas someone might have bad luck and be pursuit by clouds and rain for a week or even more.

In the following I outline and compare fife power supply options for different hiking styles and budgets. Choose what fits best to you and fine-tune it to your necessities.

Item	Comment	Luxury Ultra-Light	Ultra-Light	Economy Light	Autarky & High-Power	Smartphones Only
Navigation and Communication Devices						
GPS	Recommended Primary Navigation Device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Smartphone	Recommended Backup Navigation Device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Backup Smartphone	Second Backup Smartphone if no GPS used	-	-	-	-	Yes
InReach	Satellite Communication Device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Power Generator						
Solar Panel	A solar panel with an actual 5 W power output is normally sufficient	-	-	-	Yes	-
Batteries and Power Banks						
AA Lithium Batteries	Lithium batteries have the highest specific stored energy but are costly	Yes	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	-
AA Alkaline Batteries	Alkaline batteries are cheaper and easier to find in small resupply towns	-	Yes	Opt.	-	-
AA NiMH Batteries	Rechargeable batteries minimize cost but slightly increase weight	-	-	Yes	Yes	-
AA USB Charger	Rechargeable batteries require a charger that may serve as power bank	Opt.	-	Yes	Yes	-
USB Power Bank	USB devices are best recharged with a Lithium-Ion power bank	Opt.	Yes	Yes	Opt.	Yes
220 V USB Charger						
USB Charger	220 V USB Charger with Europlug and Type L Adapter for Argentina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 164: Navigation Equipment Options (Opt.: Optional)

3.1.7.6 Luxury Ultra-Light Option

Non-rechargeable Lithium batteries have a high specific energy compared to most other battery types including rechargeable Lithium-Ion batteries. Only 7.5 g of battery power are required to run a basic handheld GPS one full hiking day. This makes this option the lightest but also the most expensive option as Lithium batteries as costlier.

Be aware that Lithium batteries are normally not available in smaller towns in Chile and Argentina. In this case Alkaline batteries should be purchased. So, maintaining this luxury ultra-light strategy over the length of the GPT is difficult without a “bounce-box”.

Hikers that put so much effort and money in minimizing weight will probably also minimize smartphone use to not carry a USB power bank or only a small one. Therefore it would not be a completely stupid idea to carry for emergencies a Goal Zero Guide 10 plus charger (64 g) as this device can be used with the Lithium batteries as a emergency USB power bank. Considering the expected transformation losses four Lithium batteries correspond roughly an effective stored energy of 12 Wh for the smartphone or the InReach. If i.e. the GPS fails the smartphone can be recharged at least once while being used for navigation. Or in case of an accident the InReach Mini can be recharged twice. This may eliminate the need to carry a USB power bank saving a few grams (A 5’000 mAh USB power bank weights at least 120 g and has an effective stored energy of 13 - 15 Wh).

Add images.

3.1.7.7 Ultra-Light Option

Alkaline batteries are less costly and more easily available than Lithium batteries. Around 15 g of battery power are sufficient to run a Garmin eTrex20x or 30x one hiking day. Even on the longest sections this is still lighter than rechargeable NiMH batteries

and a solar recharge kid.

A pair of Lithium batteries might be carried as a backup if the amount of Alkaline batteries is calculated without much reserves.

A USB power bank should be carried to recharge the smartphone (backup navigation device) and the InReach communication device.

This option provides a good balance between minimizing weigh and minimizing cost.

Add images.

3.1.7.8 Economy Light Option

Someone who dislikes non-rechargeable batteries for environmental reasons and prefers rechargeable batteries can use NiMH batteries and recharge these batteries during resupply town stops. To keep the GPS running 25 g of battery are required per hiking day. This is heavier than using Alkaline and Lithium batteries but less costly since no money is spend regularly on single-use batteries.

For a weight comparison two additional aspects need to be considered. First: a AA NiMH battery charger and a cable is require. And second: the amount of batteries is determined by the power demand of the longest section. If i.e. 12 batteries are required for the longest section (or combination of sections) than these 12 batteries need to be carried on all other sections as well even if not really needed. So the weight of this equipment options is set by the required maximum range and not by the actual length of each section.

Alternatively, a smaller set of rechargeable NiMH batteries (i.e. 4, 6 or 8 pieces) can be carried during the entire hike that is complemented only on for longer sections by a few Alkaline batteries to extend the range as needed.

A set of four Lithium batteries (4 x 15 g) might also be a wise backup. These Lithium batteries can either be used in the handheld GPS or in the Goal Zero Guide 10 to recharge USB devices in emergencies (smartphone, InReach). This can be an alternative to carrying a large power bank.

Add images.

3.1.7.9 Autarky & High-Power Option

As analysed before a solar panel becomes only beneficial on very long hikes (two weeks or more between proper resupplies) and when a lot of electric power is required on the trail (intense smartphone use, tablet computer use). On sections shorter than two weeks it is normally lighter to carry just the right amount of batteries than adding a solar panel, an AA battery charger and sufficient rechargeable NiMH batteries to the gear.

On the GPT several sections or combinations of sections are close to this break-even point but not clearly beyond. Therefore, it is worth considering this option, but it will not be the optimal choice for all hikers on the GPT.

A valid motive for carrying a solar panel on the GPT is the increased autarky that permits to slow down and a worriless use of electronic devices on the trail. But for hikers that want to be fast and light a solar panel rarely pays off.

Carrying a set of four Lithium batteries (4 x 15 g) is a wise complement to a solar power set. These Lithium batteries can be used

in the handheld GPS i.e. if the solar panel fails or the sun disappears for more than a week behind clouds. In addition, these 4 Lithium batteries can be used in the Goal Zero Guide 10 to recharge USB devices in emergencies (smartphone, InReach). This can be an alternative to carrying a power bank.

Add images.

3.1.7.10 Smartphones Only Option

Some hikers in recent years relied on smartphones only and did not carry a handheld GPS. Some managed to navigate the longer sections but deactivate GPS navigation and GPS recording whenever possible to make the smartphone battery and the power banks last long enough. Some smartphone users also struggled with the track file conversion and often lost a part of the track information in the conversion process. Based on these feedbacks I'm relucted to recommend this option.

Also, the higher power consumption of a smartphone eliminates the assumed weight benefit. A smartphone with GPS navigation and GPS recording activated consumes roughly 5 Wh per day. To have a range of 12 hiking days two 10'000 mAh power banks are required to recharge the smartphone every second day (at least 360 g in USB power banks). In comparison a handheld GPS consumes approximately 2 Wh per day so for the same 12-day period 8 Alkaline batteries are sufficient to keep the navigation device powered up (184 g in Alkaline batteries).

We start our smartphone occasionally to review satellite images when investigating new routes and to link it for a few minutes with the InReach to type messages and check the weather forecast. This preserves the battery to have the smartphone available as backup navigation device should the GPS fail.

Add images.

3.1.7.11 Weight Comparison of Power Supply Options

Power Supply Option	Device Consumption[88]	Cost per Day of Navigation	Weight per Day of Navigation	Additional Base Weight per Day of Range	Additional Base Weight
Luxury Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Lithium Batteries	2 AA: 4 – 5 days	1 – 3 EUR	7.5 g	-	-
Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Alkaline Batteries	2 AA: 3 – 4 days	0.25 – 1 EUR	15 g	-	-
Economy Light Option GPS & AA NiMH Batteries	2 AA: 2 – 3 days	-	-	25 g	75 g
Autarky & High-Power Option GPS & AA NiMH Bat. & Solar Panel	2 AA: 2 – 3 days	-	-	-	At least 475 g
Smartphones Only Option Smartphones & USB Power Bank	1 smartphone charge: ≈ 2 days	-	-	At least 30 g	Backup Smartphone

Table 165: Navigation Equipment Options (Weight per day)

[88] The typical battery life is based on the experience of a few hikers (including me) that did not necessarily apply all the recommended power-saving settings, used new healthy NiMH batteries or the more basic Garmin GPS devices of the eTrex series. Therefore, these values are rather conservative, and the actual battery life may exceed these values. I will update these numbers once I receive more feedbacks from other hikers that used eTrex20x or eTrex30x devices and applied all the recommended power-saving settings.

Power Supply Options With Non-Rechargeable Batteries	**4 Days of Navigation**	**8 Days of Navigation**	**12 Days of Navigation**	**16 Days of Navigation**	**20 Days of Navigation**
Luxury Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Lithium Batteries	30 g 2 x AA Lithium	60 g 4 x AA Lithium	90 g 6 x AA Lithium	120 g 8 x AA Lithium	150 g 10 x AA Lithium
	In addition, USB power bank for smartphone depending on habits and backup needs.				
Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Alkaline Batteries	92 g 4 x AA Alkaline	138 g 6 x AA Alkaline	184 g 8 x AA Alkaline	276 g 12 x AA Alkaline	322 g 14 x AA Alkaline
	In addition, USB power bank for smartphone depending on habits and backup needs.				
Navigation Equipment Option With Rechargeable Batteries	**4 Days of Range**	**8 Days of Range**	**12 Days of Range**	**16 Days of Range**	**20 Days of Range**
Economy Light Option GPS & AA NiMH Batteries	175 g 4 x AA NiMH	275 g 8 x AA NiMH	375 g 12 x AA NiMH	475 g 16 x AA NiMH	575 g 20 x AA NiMH
	In addition, USB power bank for smartphone depending on habits and backup needs.				
Autarky & High-Power Option GPS & AA NiMH Bat. & Solar Panel	At least 475 g	At least 475 g	At least 475 g	At least 475 g	At least 475 g
Smartphones Only Option Smartphones & USB Power Bank	At least 120 g 1 x 5’000 mAh	At least 180 g 1 x 10’000 mAh	At least 360 g 2 x 10’000 mAh	At least 540 g 3 x 10’000 mAh	At least 540 g 3 x 10’000 mAh
	In addition, a second backup smartphone required.				

Table 166: Navigation Equipment Options (Weight depending on section length)

3.2 Software: Smartphone Apps (To be updated)

Garmin handheld GPS devices are already equipped with the required software. This facilitates the setup of a Garmin handheld as only the topographic maps and tracks must be installed.

In contrast, a smartphone must be customized with navigation apps to be used as a backup navigation device on GPT. Installing additional apps provide weather forecasts and facilitate the use of the InReach satellite communication device. In this chapter I list and partially describe apps that I consider useful for the GPT.

3.2.1 Navigation Apps

The large number of suitable smartphones and navigation apps impedes providing detailed step-by-step instructions to most of them. I suggest installing various apps and topographic maps and to test different settings to find a setup that suites you.

When using the smartphone as recommended as backup navigation device, then less tinkering may be required to optimize the display of tracks and waypoints.

3.2.1.1 Locus Maps

This description was issued and provided by Lea Geibel.

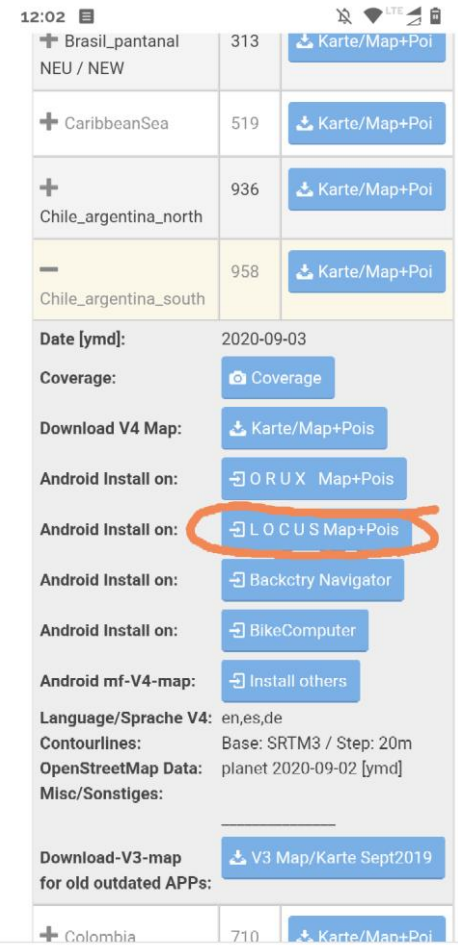
This introduction could seem complicated at a first glance, but it is recommended to invest a few hours to setup the app and the track files properly. This save time later on the trail and probably improves your planning and navigation skills. You certainly don't want to fiddle with details in the app during a snowstorm or during pouring rain.

This app is currently available only for Android devices, but an iOS version is announced for the nearer future. There is a free version with ads and restrictions on the download of the maps, but it is recommended to invest the 10 USD to purchase the full version (Locus Maps Pro).

Some preparation is necessary to use the app for navigation with the GPT track files. It is possible to prepare those steps only on the smartphone but using a computer makes the process easier.

1. Download and setup of the background map:

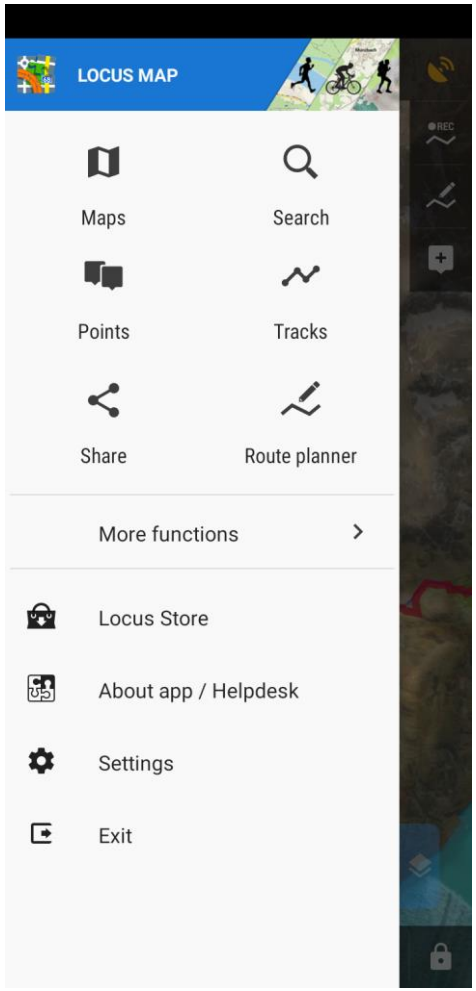
1a. To download a vector graphic map of Patagonia, go to the browser of your smartphone and visit https://www.openandromaps.org/en/downloads/south-and-middle-america. There you choose the map "Chile_argentina_south", click on the plus and then click on the link to Android install on

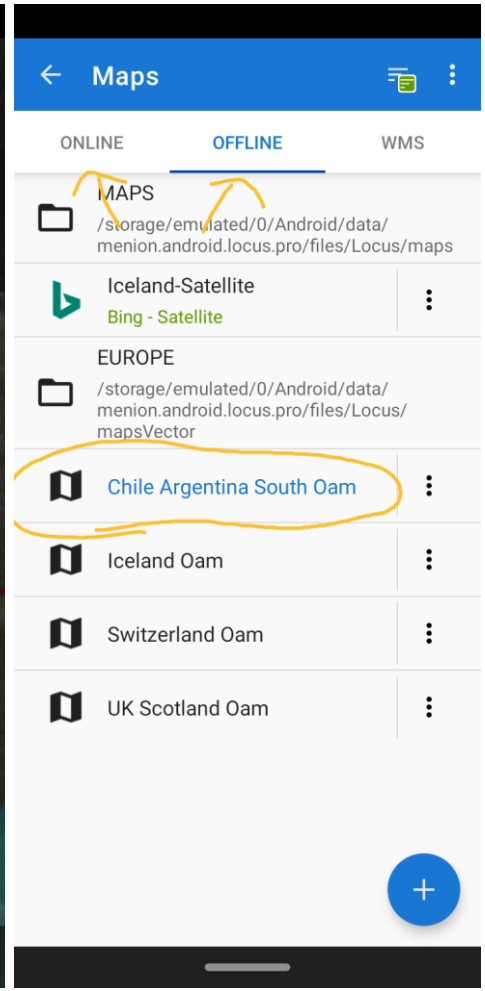


Picture 445: Locus Screen 1

LOCUS. This will start to download all maps for Southern Chile and Argentina (about 800 MB Size) directly to your smartphone for used with Locus Maps.

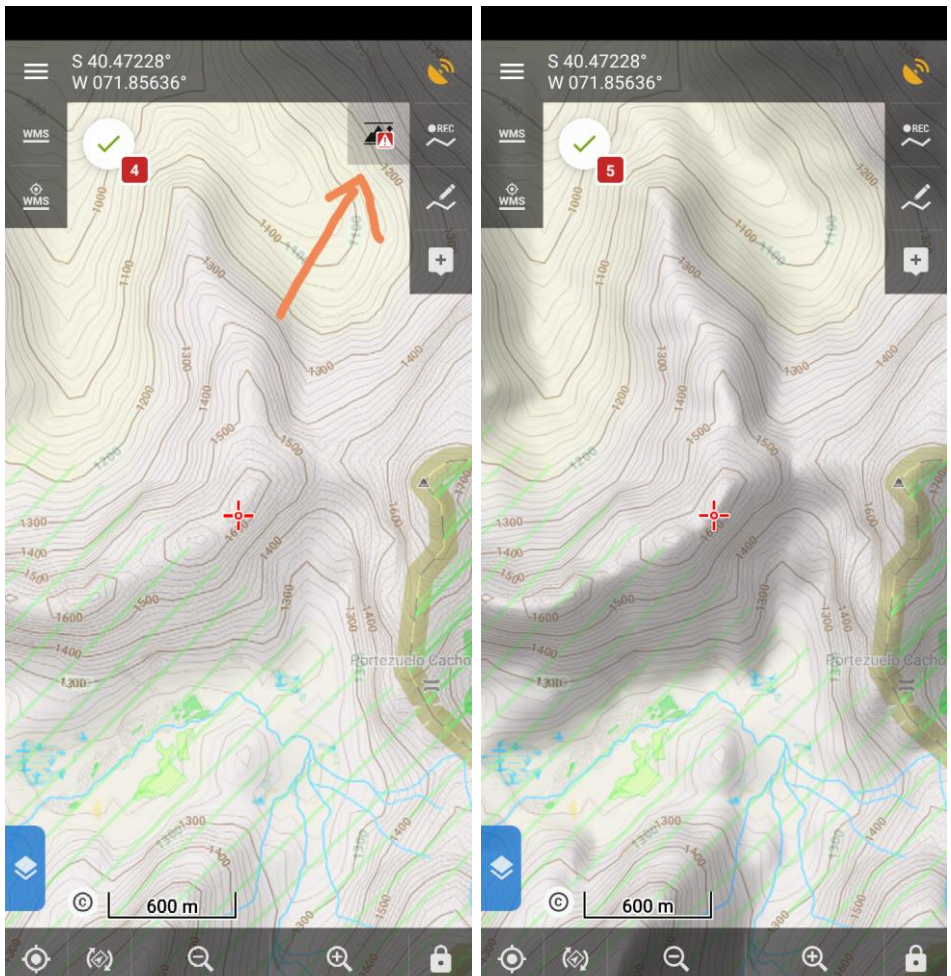
1b. Open Locus Maps, click on the three horizontal lines in the upper left corner to open the menu. Select “Maps” (see Locus Screen 2). Here you first see a selection of online available maps (some of them can be downloaded). Click on the “OFFLINE” panel on the top (see arrow Locus Screen 3) to see the maps that are already downloaded. Here, you should be able to see a folder named MAPSVECTOR, extend it and check if it contains the map “Chile Argentina South ML” that you have just downloaded in step 1a. If for some reason the map is not automatically found, select the “+” in the bottom right corner of the screen, select “External Maps”, “+” again and then navigate through the file system of your phone to look for the file you just downloaded (probably somewhere in the Downloads Folder).





Picture 446 and 447: Locus Screen 2 and 3

1c. The downloaded maps don't show a shaded relief, it only contains 20 Meter elevation lines (see Lotus Screen 4 and 5 without and with the shaded relief). If you wish to add this information (which helps to display mountainous terrain nicely and more intuitively), zoom in/out in the map until you are roughly in the right region where you want to hike on the GPT and where you obtain a zoom level that just shows the elevation lines. You see that you are at the right zoom level, when you see a mountain icon popping up in the upper right corner of the screen with a warning sign on it (see arrow on screenshot below). Click on it and it will offer you to download the elevation information for the selected region. Confirm the download and the shaded relief should appear automatically when the download is finished. Repeat this step for as many regions as you plan to visit (roughly 4 to 5 iterations for the whole length of the GPT).

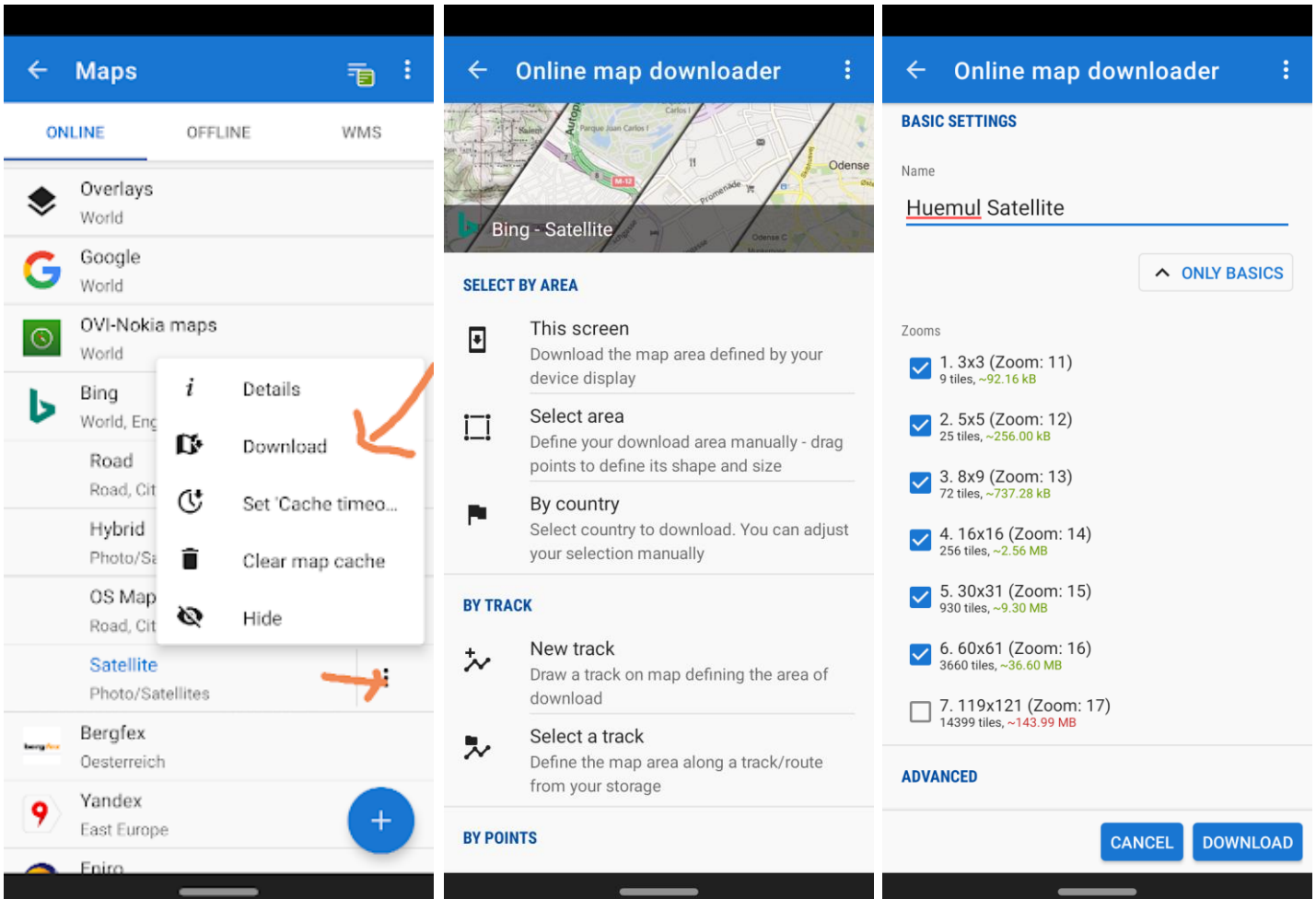


Picture 448 and 449: Locus Screen 4 and 5

1d. Optional: Display and Download Satellite Images for Offline Use

One nice feature of Locus Maps is that it downloads and displays satellite images from Google Maps and Bing Maps and allows users to display them together with the track data.

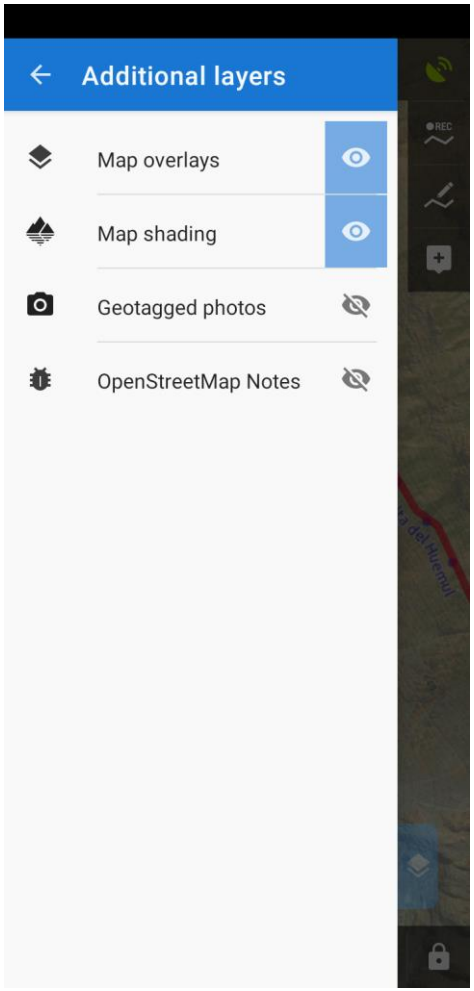
To display satellite images and to dramatically increase the choice of other available maps with Locus Maps, the external add-on “Map Tweak” has to be downloaded. Unfortunately, it is not available via the Google Play Store anymore, but the apk is still available on most providers (also via https://locus-map-tweak.en.aptoide.com/app) so the add on can be installed directly from the package after downloading. Simply enter the Locus Map Tweak App, press “Tweak the Maps” and when then going back to the Locus Maps Menu, a larger selection of available online maps, including Google and Bing Maps should be visible. To use these maps, simply click on them, to download them, press the three dots next to the map you want to download (i.e. Bing Satellite, see Lotus Screen 6 on next page). In the next step the area that should be downloaded can be chosen (Lotus Screen 7 on next page). To minimize data intensive downloads, this area should be chosen as small as possible. For longer stretches, the option “Select by track” can be used as it only downloads the imagery in a selected width along the whole length of a chosen track. In the next menu the desired zoom level can be chosen, and the necessary storage space is shown (Lotus Screen 8 on next page). As high-resolution satellite imagery requires lots of data, one should be careful with what imagery is necessary. One way is to get a rougher resolution for large areas and only specifically download the full resolution imagery for the sections where it is necessary. Furthermore, Locus Maps has a download limit of 20 000 tiles per day - this is usually sufficient for short stretches or medium resolution images or large areas whereas very high resolution images of large areas could take several days (the download can be continued when re-entering the “Maps” menu).

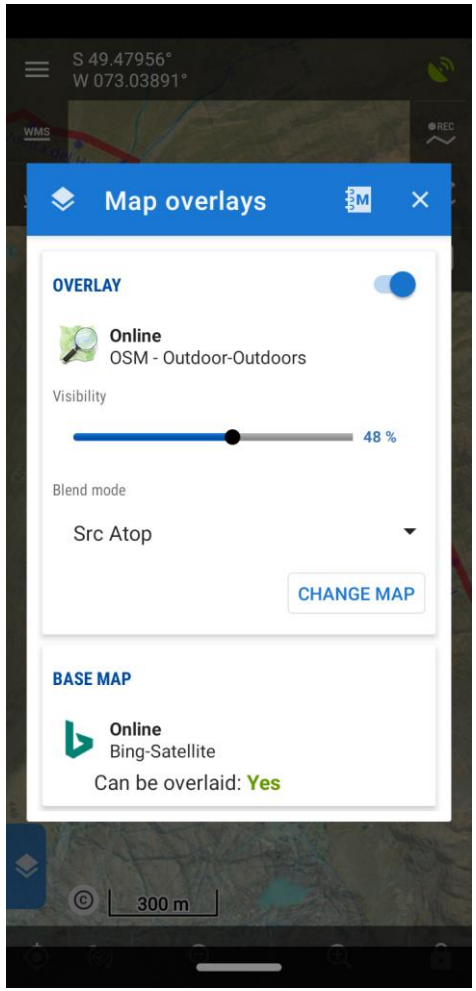


Picture 450, 451 and 452: Locus Screen 6, 7 and 8

One nice feature of Locus Maps is the possibility to overlay maps (see Locus Screen 9). In this way, topographic maps can be used over the satellite images to display surface features are relief features simultaneously. By pressing the blue quick menu slider on the bottom left (see arrow) and then choosing “Additional Layers”, map overlays can be enabled by clicking on it. After selecting a base map (i.e. the topographic maps) and an overlay map (the satellite maps), a visibility level (usually somewhere around 50%) and a blend mode (“Source Atop” works well) need to be chosen (see Locus Screen 11). Whereas for most in-field navigation this is not a necessary feature it can make (cross country) route finding a lot easier as it enhances the understanding of the surrounding terrain.







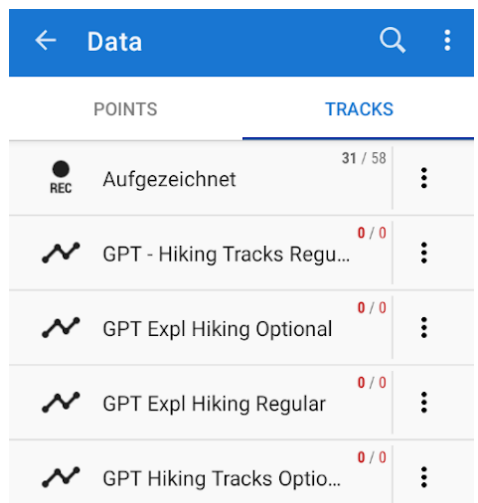
Picture 453, 454 and 455: Locus Screen 9, 10 and 11

These were the steps necessary to set up the background map(s) on Locus Maps. Next, we want to add the GPT track files and make sure they display all the different categories of tracks as described here in the manual. As most other Apps are only capable of importing tracks in one style, this is an application where the powerful features of Locus Maps for managing track files comes in handy. Of course, the files need to be downloaded to the smartphone and the zip file unpacked before starting to import them into Locus Maps.

2. Display the GPT Track files on Locus Maps

2a. Create Folders and Set Linestyle for Track Type

First, open Locus Maps and go to “Tracks” in the menu and create the following folders (by clicking on the big “+” in the bottom right corner:
GPT - HIKING RR
GPT - HIKING RH
GPT - HIKING OH
GPT - EXP RH
GPT - EXP OH

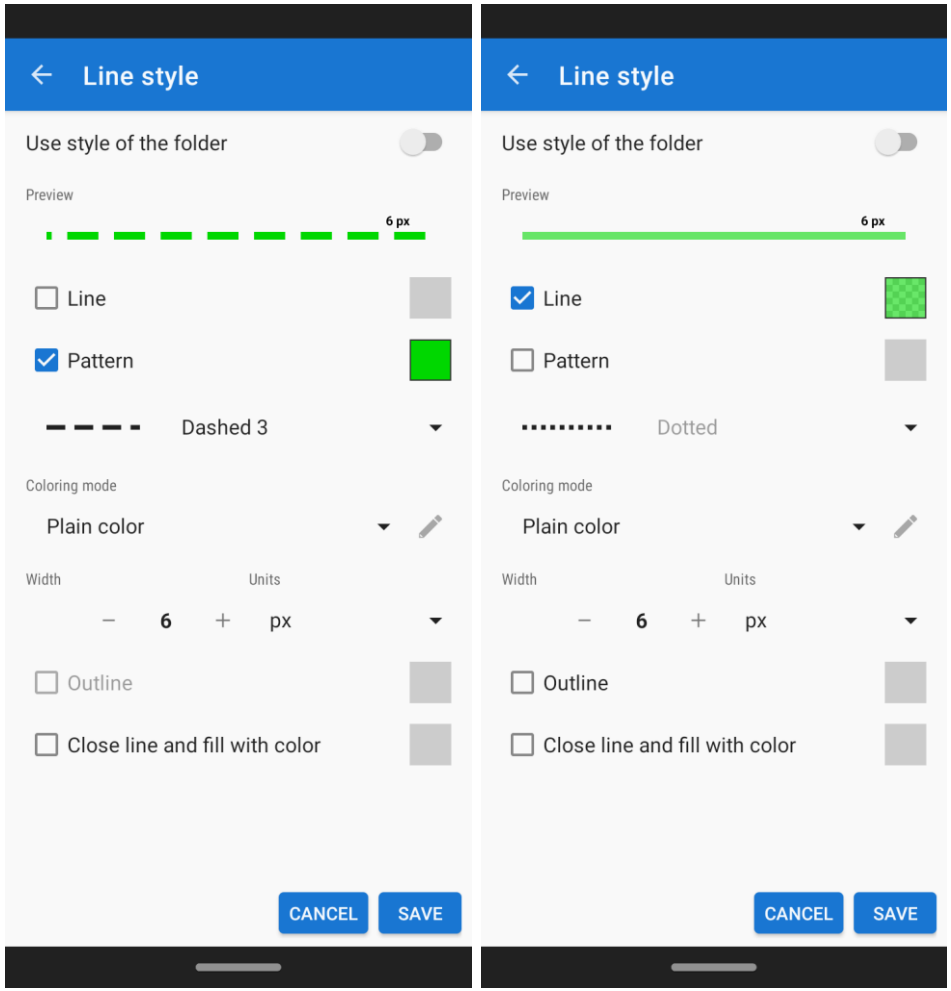


Picture 456: Locus Screen 12

In order to be able to distinguish the different status of the tracks (e.g. Regular Route, Optional Route, Exploration Route), different line styles are used. Therefore, a default line style is assigned to each folder. This is done by clicking on the three dots next to each folder (See Locus Screen 12), going to “Edit” and then click on the line displayed. It is useful to keep the same default color across the folders (i.e. blue) and only change the line styles. For solid lines, select “Line” and the corresponding color, for pattern deselect “Line” and select the desired line style and color at “Pattern”

The following styles have been used before and work well:

- RR (Regular Route) and RH (Regular Hiking Route): default line style (blue continuous line) can be used
- OH (Optional Route): dotted or dashed line
- ER (Exploration Routes): anything clearly distinguishable from other routes is advised so there is no confusion, e.g. bold crosses for EXP RH and thin crosses for EXP OH



Picture 457 and 458: Locus Screen 13 and 14

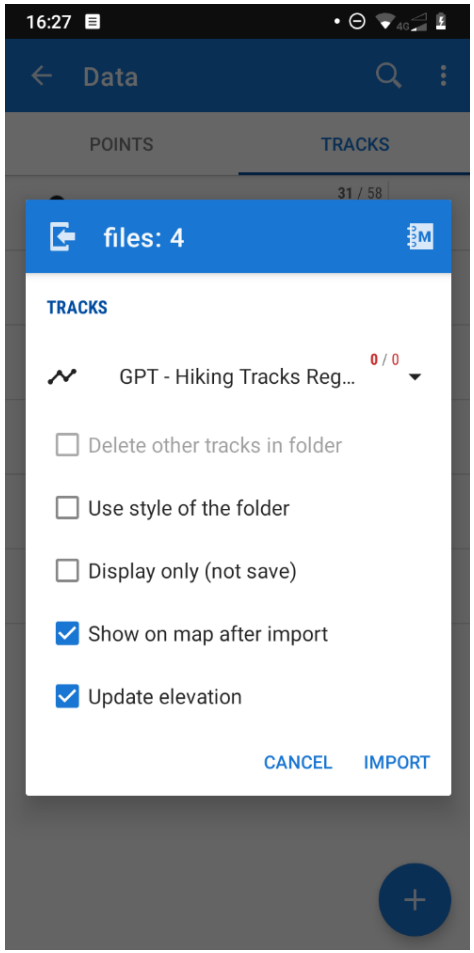
2b. Import Files

Now the actual track files need to be imported to each folder. Therefore, select “Import” for each folder and navigate to the folder where the corresponding GPT Track files are stored. For Locus Maps, the GPX files are preferred over the .kml files. Select all files in this folder and import them, repeat this step for all folders.

2c. Set Color Code for Surface Type

Once all the files are imported, the only slightly tedious part of the process starts: As the line style indicates the type of route and is the same for all tracks in one folder (continuous, dashed, etc.), the surface type (i.e. Horse Trails, Minor Roads, Cross Country, etc) for that section is indicated by the color of the line in the following way:

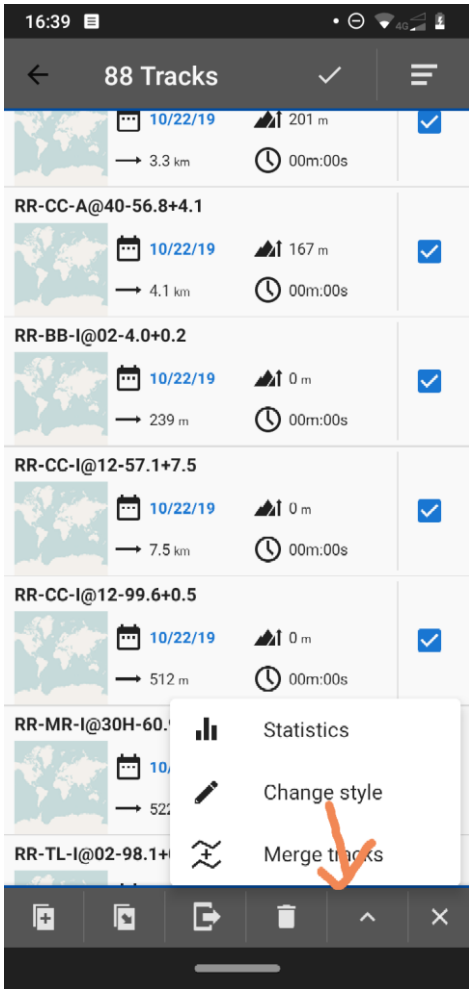
- CC (Cross Country): Green
- MR (Minor Road): Brown
- PR (Primary Road): Grey
- TL (Trail): Blue (Default Color)



Picture 459: Locus Screen 15

To achieve that, all trails of one kind (all cross country tracks denoted by the CC in the filename) in each folder have to be selected manually by long pressing on the first one to enter selection mode and then all following ones. By then pressing on the menu at the bottom (see arrow in screenshot) and selecting “Change Style” the line color (not the line style!) can be adjusted for this surface type, e.g. according to the suggested color code below. Repeat this step for all other surface types in this folder excluding Horse Trails (TL) as they can keep the default color (blue). Then repeat these steps for all five folders.

- Cross Country (CC): Green
- Minor Road (MR): Brown
- Primary Road (PR): Grey
- (Horse) Trail (TL): Blue (Default Color)



Picture 460: Locus Screen 16

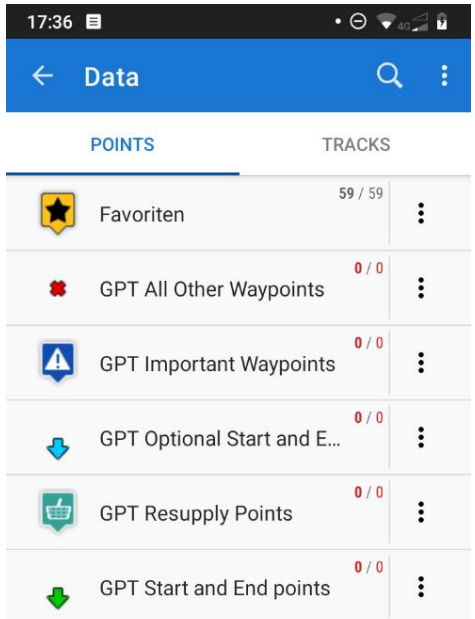
2d. Import Waypoints

To import waypoints and ensure their proper display, the procedure is similar:

Go to the Menu in Locus Maps and select “Point”. Create the following folders:

- All Other Waypoints
- Important Information
- Optional Start and End Points
- Regular Start and End Points
- Resupply Locations

For each folder, assign an explanatory icon (see screenshot for an example). Then import the corresponding waypoints to each folder. This way they will all appear with their assigned icon on the map and be easy to identify.

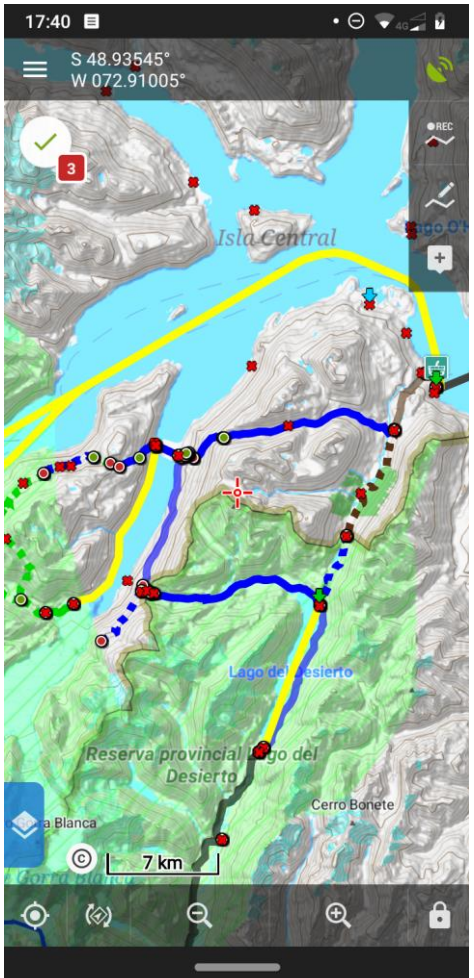


Picture 461: Locus Screen 17

When all these steps are completed, the track files and waypoints should look something like this: Regular hiking routes are solid lines, optional routes dashed and exploratory routes are crosses. Blue means Horse Trail, brown minor road, green cross country. (In this version aimed at hikers the packrafting routes were only added for completeness as solid yellow lines but no distinction was made between regular, optional and exploration tracks). Waypoints are displayed with their corresponding icon, the current location is shown as a blue circle with its diameter corresponding to the current accuracy of the GPS. When clicking on a track, its total distance and elevation gain/loss is shown as well as the distance and orientation between the current location and this track. When the current location is on this track, both the covered and the remaining distance and gain/loss are shown. By running the center over a waypoint or by clicking on it, its name and explanations are displayed.

This allows a very fast and intuitive use of the tracks and maps both when planning a route as well as for navigation while on the trail, arguably more practical than a handheld GPS device as the big touch screen can make any interactions very easy.

THIS TUTORIAL ONLY INCLUDES THE HIKING TRACKS; PACKRAFTING TRACKS CAN BE PROCESSED THE SAME WAY



Picture 462: Locus Screen 18

3.2.1.2 OsmAndMaps

To be issued.

3.2.1.3 Gaia GPS

To be issued.

3.2.1.4 ViewRanger

To be issued.

3.2.1.5 Pocket Earth

To be issued.

3.2.1.6 MapOut

To be issued.

3.2.1.7 Google Earth

To be issued.

3.2.2 Weather Apps

3.2.2.1 YR

To be issued.

3.2.2.2 Windy

To be issued.

3.2.3 Apps for Satellite Communication Device

3.2.3.1 Garmin Explorer

To be issued.

3.2.3.2 Garmin Earthmate

To be issued.

3.2.4 PDF Reader for Hikers Manual

To be issued.

3.2.5 Tide Apps

To be issued.

3.2.6 Practical Recommendations

To be issued.

3.3 Navigation Data: Maps and GPT Track Files

3.3.1 Topographic Maps

3.3.1.1 Download and Installation of Topographic Map on a Garmin GPS Device

Garmin offers topographic maps for Chile and the southern Andes but I cannot recommend any of the these maps. These maps are of poor quality and costly (80 to 100 USD). The altitude lines are quite precise, but lakes and rivers are often incorrectly placed, and some displayed trails and other features are occasionally inexistent or wrongly placed.

Better maps are available and free of charge thanks to the countless Open Street Maps contributors. Search here:

- http://alternativaslibres.org/en/downloads.php
- http://www.gmaptool.eu/en/content/south-america-osm-topo-routable

On alternativaslibres.org hikers can download finished IMG files. Choose the “Topographic” maps as a “File to install on gps/navigator device” for Chile and Argentina. These maps include contour lines, topographic features like rivers, lakes and coast lines, the entire long-distance road network, street plans of cities and towns and many points of interest. Even some GPT trails are incorporated.

Copy these IMG map files on the microSD card in the “Garmin” folder (same as the GPT track files). When restating the GPS device make sure to select in the maps options the desired topographic map file (“Enabled”) and to deselect other map files (“Disabled”). This feature permits loading multiple maps that are beneficial in different situations. To minimize power consumption,

I suggest having only one topographic map activated and all other topographic maps disabled.

The maps provided on gmaptool.eu must be installed differently. Read the instructions on this website to install the map “South America South OSM Topo” first on a computer in Garmin Basecamp. The topographic maps must then be transferred from Garmin Basecamp onto the GPS devise. To transfer the map, connect the GPS device first with a USB cable to the computer and then select in Basecamp in the menu “Maps” the option “Install Maps”. This function will guide your step by step through the installation process.

Once the topographic maps and the GPT track files are installed on the GPS, verify that all works fine. Then copy the “Garmin” folder with all files to a second backup microSD card. SD cards occasionally fail and carrying a replacement microSD card with everything correctly setup provides a backup without a noticeable weight penalty. Also, should you lose your GPS you can purchase a replacement device in Chile and the backup microSD card will work perfectly fine with a different device as long as you use the recommended free topographic maps. Should you purchase the Garmin TOPO maps than these licensed maps work with a single device only (these licensed maps are enabled for a single device serial number and will not work on any other device).

Add example images.

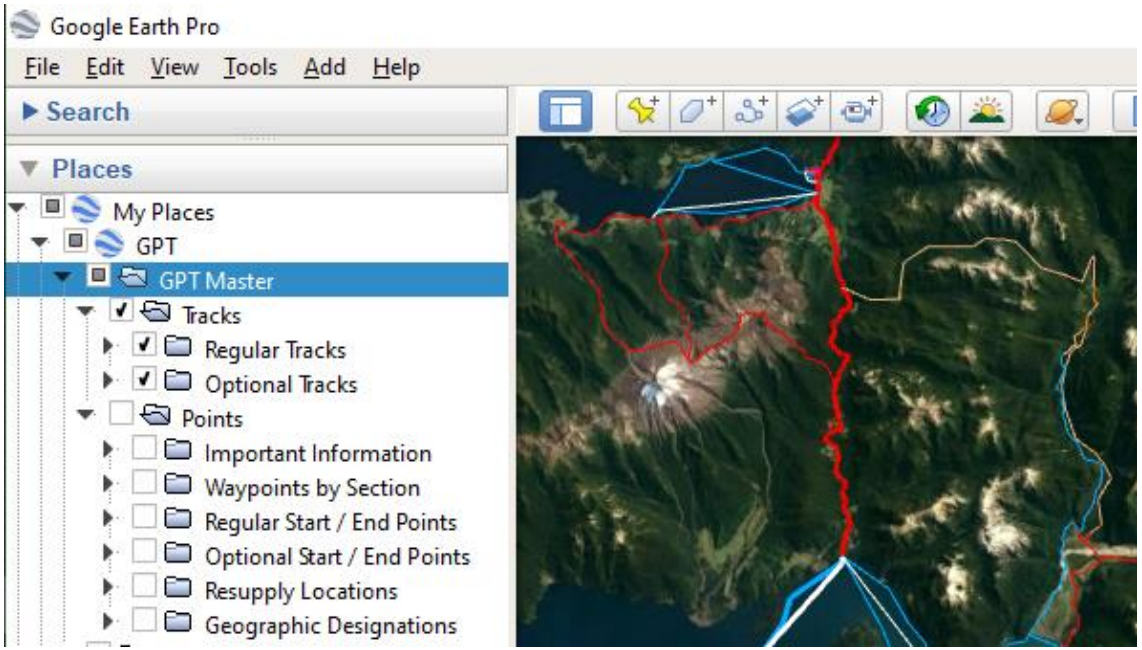
3.3.2 Satellite Images

To be issued.

3.3.3 GPT Track Files

3.3.3.1 Introduction

In this chapter I describe the structure of the digital track and waypoint documentation and how to obtain, install and use these files.



Picture 463: GPT Track File as displayed in Google Earth

The GPT tracks and waypoints are only published in a digital form and no paper maps are made available by the author of the GPT. The digital format facilitates sharing, updating, and collaborating.

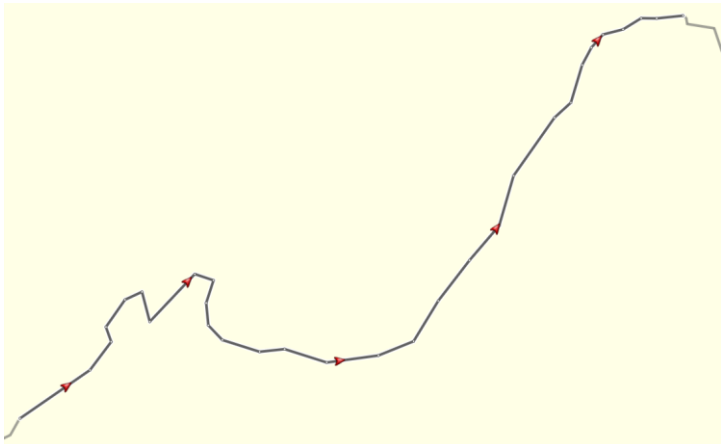
The digital track and waypoint documentation (in the following simply “track files”) evolved substantially during the recent years. Understanding the current structure and nomenclature of the track file is essential to prepare an adventure and to navigate on the GPT.

After each hiking season I carefully review all received GPS records and discuss relevant variations and additions with the hikers and packrafts that submitted these records. This information, together with our own investigations are used to update the track files annually. Therefore, only last update of the track files should be used for navigating on the GPT.

The track files consist of tracks and (way)points.

A track is basically a single line with one start point and one end point. Tracks are described as chains of geographic coordinates (points) and do not have any divisions or junctions. To document the entire GPT route network many tracks are combined. Currently (October 2021), the GPT track file contains more than 5’400 tracks with a combined length of more than 28’000 km.

Waypoints consist of a single geographic location with a specific relevance. To name a few examples: a waypoint can be a trail junction or route diversion, a water source in a particular dry area, a suitable spot to pitch a tent, a *puesto* or a settlement. As of now more than 3000 waypoints are incorporated in the GPT track file.



Picture 464: Track displayed in Garmin Basecamp

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<kml (…) > (…)
        <name>EXP-RH-TL-V {23} [1.3+1.0].kml</name> (…)
        <LineString> (…)
                <coordinates>
                        -71.60637,-42.09837,201 -71.60554,-42.09790,208 -71.60529,-42.09763,208 -71.60535,-42.09749,204 -71.60512,-42.09722,204 -71.60492,-42.09714,222
                        -71.60483,-42.09743,222 -71.60429,-42.09697,222 -71.60406,-42.09703,265 -71.60415,-42.09725,265 -71.60414,-42.09747,265 -71.60397,-42.09761,281
                        -71.60353,-42.09773,281 -71.60323,-42.09770,307 -71.60272,-42.09783,307 -71.60212,-42.09776,327 -71.60169,-42.09762,327 -71.60141,-42.09723,349
                        -71.60104,-42.09684,349 -71.60069,-42.09650,358 -71.60052,-42.09602,358 -71.60003,-42.09546,345 -71.59984,-42.09531,370 -71.59970,-42.09494,358
                        -71.59959,-42.09478,358 -71.59945,-42.09465,358 -71.59922,-42.09460,358 -71.59900,-42.09449,382 -71.59882,-42.09449,382 -71.59851,-42.09447,382
                </coordinates>
        </LineString> (…)
</kml>
```

Picture 465: Extract of a KML track file showing the list of 30 coordinates that defines the track above (coordinates with longitude, latitude, and altitude)

3.3.3.2 Obtaining and Opening the Track Files

When I started publishing the GPT in 2014 I provided the track files within the Wikiexplora article for download. At this time, I considered it unnecessary and inappropriate to make any restrictions. Several events made me rethink and change this practice.

- Some early hikers lacked the necessary cultural sensibility and essential language skills. This caused misunderstandings with the local population and landlords. This may trigger a closure of routes for hiking guests if misunderstandings continue.
- A substantial part of the hikers that relied on the publication of the GPT provided little to no useful feedback and no GPS records to update the GPT documentation.
- Individual people started fundraising while prominently using the name “Greater Patagonian Trail” without a proper understanding of the GPT. They campaigned with mission statements that did not fit to this informal route network, they failed their self-set goals, then lied about their achievements or did not even depart after asking for donations.
- The adventure company “Secret Compass” took two sections of the GPT, advertised them in 2017 as their “creation” and their commercial tour as the “first attempt” of this route. This route includes trails over private properties with a disputed right-of-way. The company “Secret Compass” did not alter their plans when being made aware of this right-of-way conflict and that a commercial use will jeopardize the current tolerance of individual hikers.

Therefore, I added in 2017 the Terms and Conditions for Using the Hikers’ Manual and the Trail Files. I’m fully aware that this provides not warranty against inappropriate use, but it at least clarifies the conditions upfront and enables a clear response to unauthorized use. In the following hiking seasons the added terms and conditions resulted in much better comprehension and collaboration of most hikers and packrafters that ventured on the GPT.

The track files are now only provided on personal request by the author and remain free of charge. Read chapter 1.14 Code of Conduct on the GPT on page 304 and 1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hikers' Manual and the Track Files on page 307 to review the conditions and to understand why these conditions were put in place.

Should you agree to these six Terms and Conditions, then:

1. Sign up on Wikiexplora
2. Add yourself to the track file request list either with your true name or an alias,
3. Send an email to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com that:
   - Expresses your consent with all six Terms and Conditions,
   - Briefly outlines your plans for the GPT and
   - Provides your Wikiexplora username and your name or alias in the track file request list.

   Optional: Attach a scanned copy of the filled and signed Declaration of Consent. See chapter 0
4. The GPT Track Files on page 30 for more information to this option.

I will than provide a link where you can download the track files. The downloaded zip-file is password protected and requires an Unlock Code to be opened. The password to unpack the zip-file is a 7-digit number. There are two ways to obtain the password.

Option 1: Calculate the password yourself! To do this, read part 1 of this Hikers' Manual (Chapter 1: Introduction and General Information from page 19 to 317) and record the seven Track File Unlock Codes that are all placed in selected key chapters. The

Track File Unlock Code 8 becomes visible when signing up in Wikiexplora and adding yourself to the GPT track file request list (is in the comment right under “List of requests” that becomes only visible in edit mode). Each unlock code is a random 6-digit number. The sum of all eight unlock codes is the password to open the zip-file with the track files.

Option 2: Alternatively, print, read, complete and sign the Declaration of Consent. If going for this option, then please state your reasons for not taking Option 1 and send a scanned copy of the filled and signed form by email when requesting access to the track files.

With this method I want to ensure that the most essential aspects of this route network are understood and that the Terms and Conditions are formally accepted and that all hikers and packrafters are setup to provide feedbacks on Wikiexplora.

See also chapter 0

The GPT Track Files on page 30 and chapter 1.15.7 Access to the GPT Track Files on page 316.

Should you have overlooked some of these Unlock Codes when reading part 1 of the GPT Manual go back to the following chapters and read the following sections carefully:

0

- The GPT Track Files on page 30
- 1.7.1.2 Before you depart: Choose on page 63

- 1.14 Code of Conduct on the GPT on page 304
- 1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hikers' Manual and the Track Files on page 307

The controlled access to the track files may appear unnecessary and awkward to some prospective hikers. I ask these hikers to try to understand my dilemma before condemning this practice. By exploring and recording all these trails and packrafting routes I practically came into possession of a key that unlocks this fascinating region. It feels like holding a key to a building that I do not own, that is partially inhabited by others and that to my believe should have some public access. My dilemma is: If I leave the key sticking in the door, I facilitate vandalism but hiding the key seems equally wrong. Therefore, I want to share this key with prospective guests that understand and accept the "house rules" and that will comply with them. Finding the right balance is a struggle that I don't take easy.

It's a dilemma that I did not anticipate at the beginning. At first, I was just seeing a region to be explored. Later I recognized the fragility of this land and met the inhabitants that live along these routes. Especially this early in the development of this route network it is essential that these inhabitants make exclusively positive experiences with the few hiking guests. At current, a single misconduct can cause lasting damage. But once the people along the trails look back to a series of positive encounters, they can discard an incidental inappropriate behaviour by an individual hiker as an exception. Therefore, a more restrictive sharing practice seems appropriate today but hopefully becomes dispensable in a few years.

I'm looking forward that the Chilean and Argentine government reactivate their efforts to form national trail networks with an

undisputed public right-of-way[89] and an appropriate oversight.

Chile announced in the year 2000 the creation of the “Sendero de Chile” that was supposed to span by 2008 the entire country. The trail was estimated to become 9000 km long and span from the northern tip of Chile all the way to Tierra del Fuego. After a huge initial effort, the initiative died down and very little is left of the original idea.

The Argentina administration took in 2010 control of an informal trail initiative “Huella Andina”. An effort was made by the Ministry of Tourism to professionally promote this roughly 600 km long trail but barely any new sections were added in the following years. In 2018 the government officially cut all funds. Several sections are deteriorated and officially closed by now.

Hopefully my publication of the Greater Patagonian Trail shows the feasibility of a long-distance hiking trail network in the Andes and becomes a stimulus to expend the public trail network that currently consists of few unconnected shorter trails. My vision is a public hiking trail network that links multiple nations with interconnected hiking routes for a wide range of experience levels and that provides the residents along the trails with recognition for their traditional way of life and additional sustainable income.

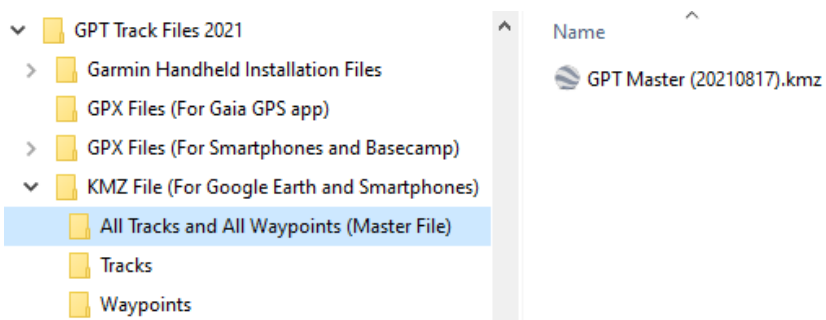
[89] This would finally relieve me from this awkward position of holding a key to something that I do not own.

3.3.3.3 Track File Applications and Track File Formats

The digital track and waypoint documentation comes in three different file formats for three different applications:

- Few files for **Google Earth** in the KML or **KMZ file format**[90]
- Several digital maps for **Garmin handheld GPS devices** in the **IMG file format**
- Multiple files for installation on **Smartphones** in the **GPX file format**

The **KMZ file** GPT Master (YYYYMMDD).kmz for **Google Earth** contains all tracks and waypoints and is the master document from which all other files are derived[91]. The number in the brackets is the version date, in example (20210817) is the update from August 17, 2021 (YYYY = year, MM = month, DD = day). This file can be viewed and edited in Google Earth and serves to study the route network on a computer screen while planning a hike.

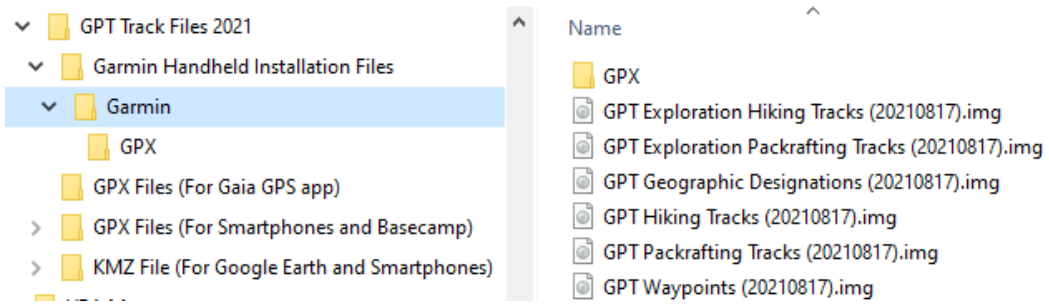


Picture 466: KMZ File for Google Earth

A few smartphone apps permit the installation of KMZ files in example the Google Earth app. To facilitate a setup of these apps additional KMZ files are provided that contain the master file in better sliced pieces. This facilitates installing parts of the track files (in example the tracks only) and to manage the display of the track files in the app (in example disabling the display of the waypoints to prevent the screen from getting overloaded while zoomed out).

[90] KML and KMZ files are basically interchangeable. A KMZ file is the zipped (compressed) version of a KML file. Software that “digests” KML files normally “eats” KMZ files as well.
[91] Or to use IT terminology: the GPT Master file it is the single source of truth.

The file formats suitable for Google Earth (KML and KMZ files) are no compatible with many GPS devices and this includes **Garmin handhelds**. To upload user defined tracks and way-points, Garmin suggests using GPX Files, but Garmin limits the number of user defined tracks to 200 tracks that can be loaded to the device regardless of the storage size[92]. Therefore, it is impossible to transfer the GPT track files with more than 5'400 tracks to a Garmin device using the suggested standard method.



Picture 467: IMG File for Garmin handheld GPS devices

It was an ordeal to work around this limitation but since 2016 I create before each season digital maps for Garmin GPS handhelds in the **IMG File** format based on the latest update of the master file. Using such IMG map files comes with benefits:

- Using digital maps in the IMG file format facilities the installation and the management of this information on a Garmin hand-held. It's quite simple to copy a few map files and then selecting relevant maps to be displayed. In comparison exporting countless tracks to a GPS and then selecting them one by one to make them visible or hide them is annoying.

- Map files in the IMG file format permit more user defined map features in example different line types. I now use these features to make the GPT maps intuitively readable by packing more visual information into the track and waypoint display.

[92] Most Garmin GPS handhelds have a build in limit of 200 user defined tracks regardless of the storage size. But the GPT track file contains currently more than 5'400 tracks. This makes it impossible to load a significant part of the GPT route network at once onto a Garmin GPS even when converting first all data into a GPX file (the Garmin standard file format). Also the length of user defined tracks is limited to 10'000 points. Tracks that exceed this limit are simply cut off by the GPS device.

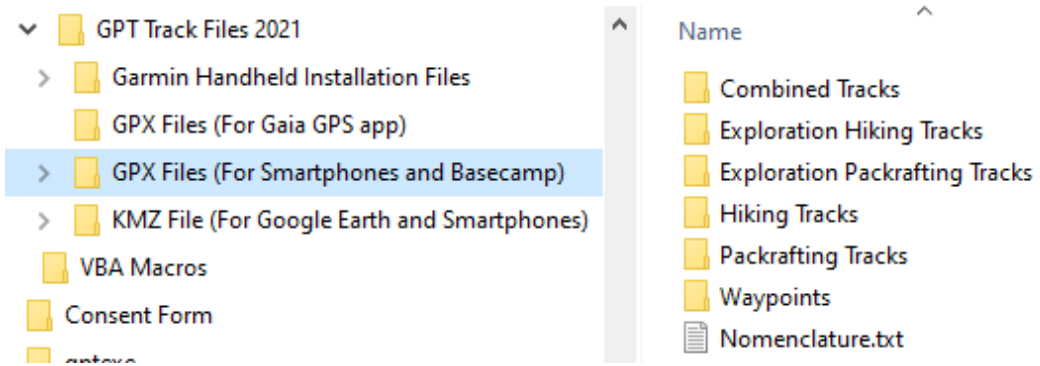
I created 6 different maps to facilitate a selection of the applicable components of the route network:

- One map for hiking: **GPT Hiking Tracks**
- One map for packrafting: **GPT Packrafting Tracks** which includes also all hiking routes
- One map with additional hiking exploration routes: **GPT Hiking Exploration Tracks**
- One map with additional packrafting exploration routes: **GPT Packrafting Exploration Tracks** including all hiking
- One map with all waypoints: **GPT Waypoints** with all the points for hiking, packrafting and explorations
- One map with geographic information: **GPT Geographic Designations** with names of summits, rivers, fjords, and coastal features

By loading just the applicable maps only the relevant tracks will be displayed and irrelevant parts will not confuse the user while navigating with a GPS handheld device. This eliminates the risk that in example a hiker takes by accident a packrafting land route and ends up on a lake or river from where he is unable to continue without a boat.

The digital maps with the GPT route network are best used together with a digital topographic map that displays the actual geography. Seeing just tracks and waypoints on an otherwise blank GPS screen can be misguiding. The GPT route network needs the context of elevation lines, lakes and rivers, roads and towns to plan and navigate with confidence. Therefore, the digital maps with the GPT route network are “transparent” to be displayed on top of topographic map. This enables the combined use of multiple maps (topographic map in background, GPT route network maps on top of it in the foreground). Such topographic maps for Garmin devices come also in the IMG file format and can be downloaded free of charge thanks to the collaborating effort of the Open Street Map (OSM) contributors. See chapter 3.3.1 Topographic Maps on page 1086 above.

Neither the KMZ Files nor the IMG Files are suitable to setup a **smartphone** as a backup navigation device. Most navigation apps require **GPX Files** to load tracks and waypoints. Therefore, the track files come with a large selection of GPX Files that slice the track file information in various portions.



Picture 468: GPX Files for Smartphones

The large number of suitable smartphone navigation apps makes it impractical to customize the GPX Files for all suitable apps and to provide detailed instructions how to load and customize the track and waypoints in all these navigation apps. This customization is only available for navigation apps for which other hikers did the work.

The IT expert David Brophy prefers to navigate with the Gaia GPS app and he coded a brilliant software in Python that customizes the GPX Files for loading the track files in the Gaia GPS navigation app. Therefore, a specific set of customized GPX files is available for this app.

Also, the navigation app descriptions in this manual were provided by other hikers. Lea Geibel prefers to navigate with Locus Maps and she provided the detailed description and setup instruction for this app.

Other hikers are welcome to contribute to the Hikers' Manual by providing further navigation app descriptions and setup recommendations.

3.3.3.4 Installation of Track Files

Before you continue to read more about the track files you should install these files at least on your computer in Google Earth and if possible, also on your Garmin handheld GPS device and in the smartphone navigation apps. Once installed, you can cross-check what I'm explaining to the track files and this gives you the "Ahhh!" and "Yes!" moments, that are essential to digest this admittedly nerdy topic.

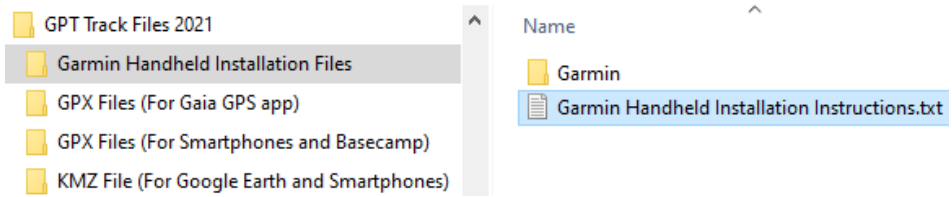
3.3.3.4.1 Installation of Track Files on a Computer in Google Earth

Installing the KMZ file on a computer in Google Earth is straight-forward. Simply open the KMZ-file on your computer. It will automatically open in Google Earth if you have Google Earth or Google Earth Pro on your computer. If not, then download this free software first.

Once you opened the track file on your computer in Google Earth move the GPT Master folder from "Temporary Places" to "My Places" and start exploring the file. Tracks and waypoints are structured into folders and you can make specific elements visible or hide them by checking and unchecking the tag box. You can also see the names of all subfolder, tracks and waypoints. If you got to this point, take your time and play around before reading one. Note, that Google Earth becomes very slow or freezes if all waypoints are made visible while not zoomed in. Therefore, waypoints should only be selected for being displayed when zoomed in. The meaning of the different track colours and the line widths is outlined in Table 14: Satellite Image Line Codes on page 352.

Doing the same in the Google Earth app on a smartphone is of little benefit. You might see the route network, but you cannot analyse the tracks in detail as you cannot review the individual elements and select and deselect specific parts. So, best use a computer to study the GPT route network during your preparation.

3.3.3.4.2 Installation of GPT Maps on a Garmin Handheld



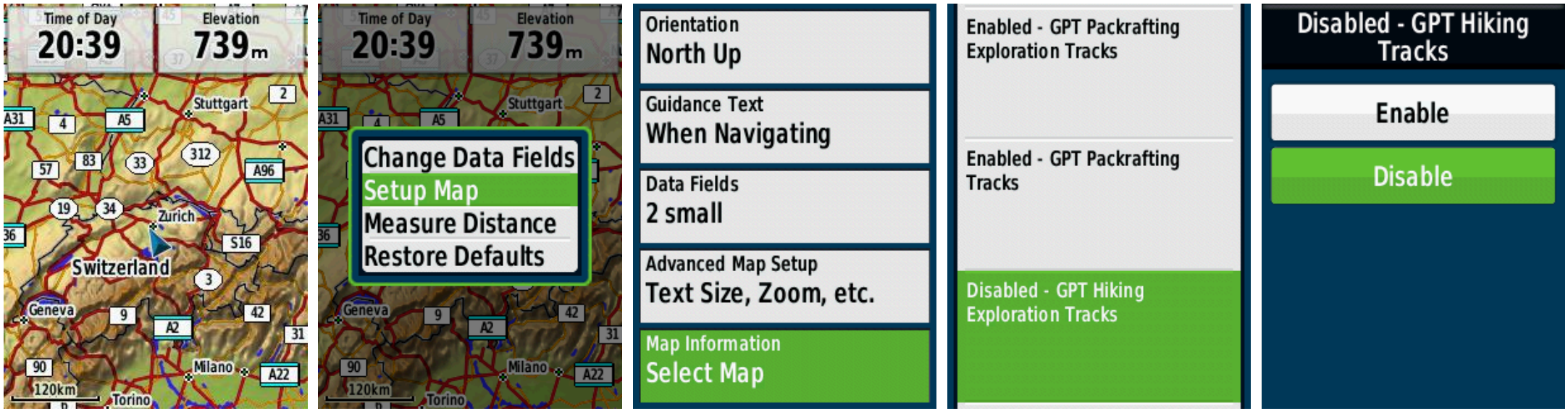
Picture 469: Garmin handheld installation instruction

Installing the track files on a Garmin handheld GPS device is simple. But before you install the maps, decide first what maps are useful for you and install only these files. If you hike without packrafting, then do not install the packrafting maps. If you do not want to explore questionable routes, then do not install the exploration maps. In any case, install the waypoint map that contains all waypoints for all forms of travel and maybe the map with the geographic designations.

Once you have the IMG files on your computer connect either the GPS device with a USB cable to your computer or remove the microSD card from the GPS device and put it with a microSD adapter in the SD card slot of your computer. Then copy the entire Garmin folder with all files to the microSD card and delete the IMG files that are not required. That's all you need to do; just copy the folder and delete irrelevant IMG Files within this folder.

Once the folder with the files is copied to the microSD card, insert the microSD card in the Garmin handheld, start your device and check if the copied map files are activated. To do this, open the map setup to verify if the GPT maps are listed and make sure that the map status is set correctly. Then go back to the map and scroll to the Southern Cone to verify if the GPT route network is visible. Take now some play time with your GPS before reading on.

If you want to install all six maps, then at least disable the irrelevant maps. Installing all six maps makes sense when combining hiking without a packraft and packrafting into one long journey with both forms of travel. But when installing all maps, then you should never set visible ("Enabled") the corresponding hiking and packrafting simultaneously.



Pictures 470, 471, 472, 473 and 474: Map Setup on a Garmin eTrex30x

Content of the six GPT maps for Garmin handheld GPS devices:

- **GPT Hiking Tracks**: All hiking tracks with the regular hiking route highlighted (thick line) except exploration tracks
- **GPT Packrafting Tracks**: All hiking and packrafting tracks with the regular packrafting route highlighted except explorations
- **GPT Hiking Exploration Tracks**: Additional exploration hiking tracks
- **GPT Packrafting Exploration Tracks**: Additional exploration hiking and packrafting tracks
- **GPT Waypoints**: All the points for hiking, packrafting and explorations
- **GPT Geographic Designations**: Points that display the names of summits, rivers, lakes, fjords, and coastal features

While you played with the track files on your computer in Google Earth and on your Garmin handheld GPS device you probably noticed that the same route network is displayed differently on both devices. There is a simple reason for it: colors that provide a good visibility and contrast on the satellite images of Google Earth are less visible on a handheld GPS device and vice versa. Also, current technology permits multiple line shapes on Garmin handheld GPS devices in example dotted-, dashed- and arrow-lines while Google Earth is limited to continuous lines with different line colors and different line widths only.

If you wonder what all the different colours and line types mean than you will find the answer in the following chapter 3.3.4 Track and Waypoint Nomenclature on page 1103. But before your get there install first a suitable topographic map on your GPS.

3.3.3.5 Navigation Apps and Installation of Track Files on a Smartphone

To be issued.

3.3.4 Track and Waypoint Nomenclature

3.3.4.1 Track Nomenclature

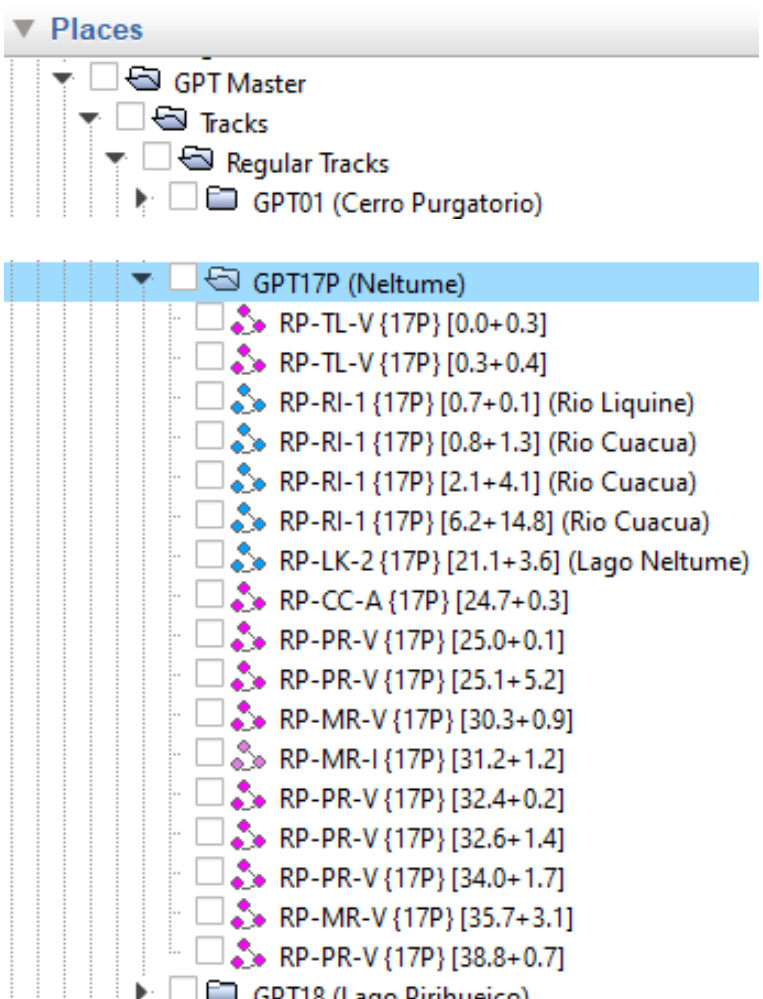
The entire GPT route network consists of several thousand tracks and waypoints. Each track is a continuous line, with one start and one end point. See Picture 463: Track displayed in Garmin Basecamp on page 1089. Most tracks link seamless to other tracks and all tracks form an interconnected network. Each track has a unique name, in example:

RP-RI-1 {17P} [0.7+0.1] (Rio Liquine)

Each track name consists of three or four elements:

- a **track short description** that classifies the track with several codes, in example: RP-RI-1
- a **track group code** that names the section code and if applicable the option number and variant letter, in example: {17P}
- the **track position and track length**, in example: [0.7+0.1]
- and an **optional local name of track**, in example: (Rio Liquine)

To easily distinguish between the different name components different types of brackets are used (except for the short description that is without brackets).



Picture 475: Track Names of Regular Packrafting Route of Section GPT17P

3.3.4.2 Track Short Description

To facilitate an educated choice of routes all tracks are categorized in respect of track relevance, track terrain, track reliability and track direction. This information forms the short description of the track.

Exploration routes are challenging unverified routes. On these routes hikers and packrafters should expect surprises and be prepared to backtrack if the route is not traversable. The short description of exploration routes starts with the optional prefix EXP. “Normal” routes have no prefix but start with the track relevance.

EXP: See Further Explanations to Exploration Routes (EXP-…) on page 1122

With the **track relevance** I distinguish between the **regular route** (the author’s standard suggestion) and alternative **options**. The track relevance also informs what is intended for **hiking** and where a **packraft** is required. I have basically pre-selected two partly overlapping regular routes, one for hiking and one for packrafting. Also, all remaining optional routes are either relevant for packrafting only (OP) or suitable for hiking and packrafting (OH).

RR: See Regular Routes (RR-…) on page 1118 (common regular route for hiking and packrafting)
RH: See Regular Hiking Routes (RH-…) on page 1118
RP: See Regular Packrafting Routes (RP-…) on page 1119
OH: See Optional Hiking Routes (OH-…) on page 1121
OP: See Optional Packrafting Routes (OP-…) on page 1121

The **track terrain** tells where to walk on actual horse or hiking trails, where the route follows minor and major roads and where to walk cross country or to bush bash through vegetation. Packrafters can see where to paddle on rivers, lakes or fjords.

BB: See Bush Bashing Routes (…-BB-…) on page 1129
CC: See Cross Country Routes (…-CC-…) on page 1126
TL: See Horse or Hiking Trails (…-TL-…) on page 1124
MR: See Minor and Two-Track Roads (…-MR-…) on page 1127
PR: See Primary and Paved Roads (…-PR-…) on page 1128
FY: See Ferry and Boat Transfer Routes (…-FY-…) on page 1130
RI: See Lake Packrafting Routes (...-LK-….) (To be updated)

The GPT incorporates XY **LaKe** crossings into the regular packrafting route and further XY **LaKes** are part of the options. In calm weather all these lakes are suitable for packrafts but even small lakes become hostile in strong wind. When travelling southbound a good proportion of the lake crossings are oriented in the predominant wind direction, but some lakes crossings require a careful timing to reach the lake exit before the wind picks up what on a typical day occurs around noon.

The crossings of the most wind exposed lakes, like Lago General Carrera and Lago O'Higgins are only feasible during short windows of opportunity in exceptional calm weather. In these locations, the wind may not calm down for several days and attempting these exploration water routes is a gamble with the weather.

The suggested packrafting routes are generally close to the shore but cross open water as needed. A good proportion of the lake

shores do not provide suitable camp sites, therefore lake crossings should not be started in deteriorating conditions. The longest lake paddle sections without suitable camp sites is XY kilometer long.

Add images.

River Packrafting Routes (…-RI-…) on page 1131
LK: See Lake Packrafting Routes (...-LK-….) on page 1131
FJ: See Fjord Packrafting Routes (…-FJ-…) on page 1134

The **track reliability** applies to land routes only and distinguishes between verified, approximate and investigation routes. **Verified** routes are precisely recorded trails or routes that are clearly visible on satellite images. On verified routes hikers should attempt stay on the track. **Approximate** tracks provide a general orientation in cross country and bush bashing terrain. On such approximate routes hikers should walk in the direction of the track but should not attempt to stay on the line as there is no possibility or necessity to follow a precise route. Routes that are not yet recorded by GPS and that need to be investigated are classified as **investigation** routes. On such routes the tracks provide only draft line for general orientation and hikers need to search the trail or a feasible route. One hiker described such tracks as “seek your own adventure” routes. But such investigation

routes are not necessarily explorations; it may be a well-maintained trail that was simply not recorded yet.

The **travel direction** is relevant on water only because rivers can be packrafted in one direction only. Practically all rivers are faster than a packrafter may paddle. Also, some boat transfers are best done in one specific direction because the settler with the boat lives in a particular place making it easier to start the boat transfer at the settlers' home. Using such a boat transfer in the opposite direction is not impossible but requires pre-arrangements.

A: See Approximate Land Routes (…-A) on page 1136
I: See Investigation Land Routes (…-I) on page 1137
V: See Verified Land Routes (…-V) on page 1135
1: See One-Way Water Routes (…-1) on page 1139
2: See Two-Way Water Routes (…-2) on page 1138

All this information is abbreviated with short codes, separated by minus signs to create standardized short descriptions for all tracks. The abbreviations facilitate the display of this information on a small GPS screen.

The line width, the line color and the line type display some of this information but not all. Therefore, understanding these codes is important to make an educated selection of routes while preparing for a hike on the GPT. Once on the trail a user can quickly check with a brief look on the GPS what to expect on the next kilometers.

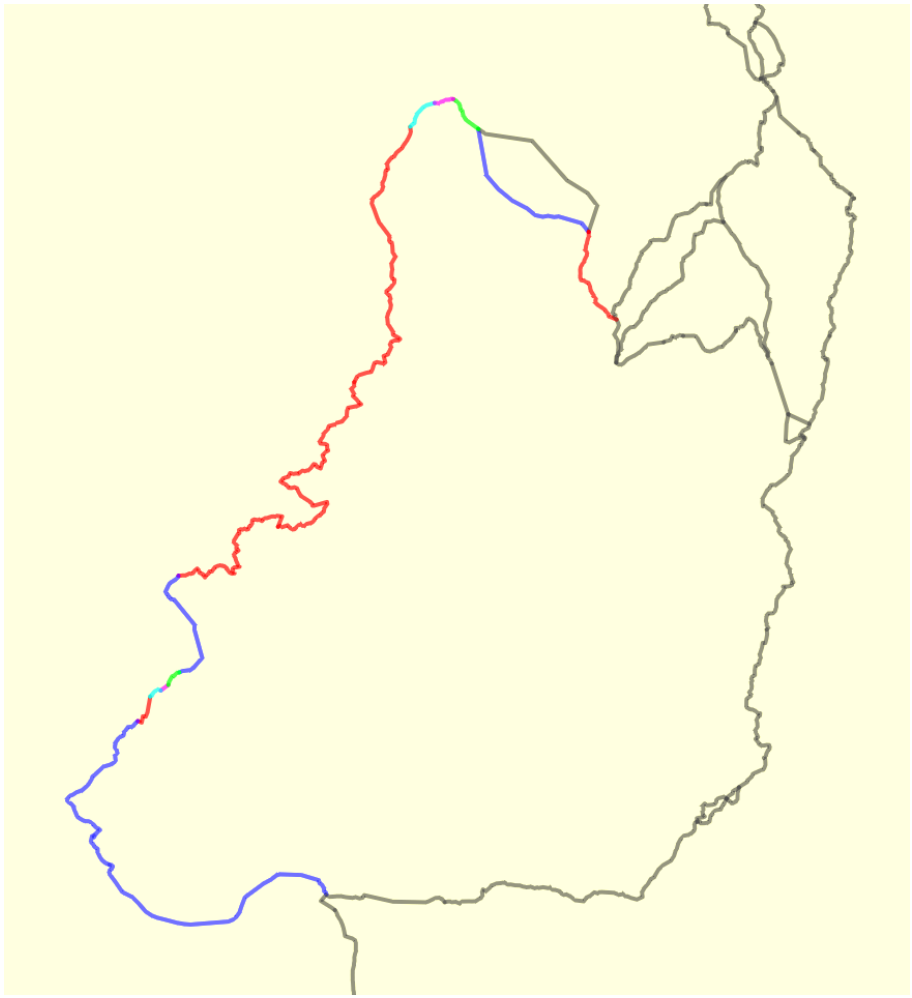
3.3.4.3 Track Group Code

A **track group** is a collection of tracks that forms one continuous line with one start and one end point. All tracks of this track group connect seamless. This means, the end point of the first track is the start point of the second track and so on. Other track may link halfway to a track group, but these attachments normally form a separate track group. This "packaging" is done to combine closely related tracks into routes and to provide the route length, ascents and descents and elevation profiles to these routes.

In case of regular routes, the track group combines the entire regular route of one section from the section start to the section end. In case of optional routes and variants, the track group combines all tracks of one option or one variant that form one continuous line.

The track group code follows the short description and is displayed in braces or curly brackets. Examples of track groups are:

- Regular Route: {17P}
- Variant of a Regular Route: {17P-A}
- Optional Route: {17P-01}
- Variant of an Optional Route: {17P-01A}

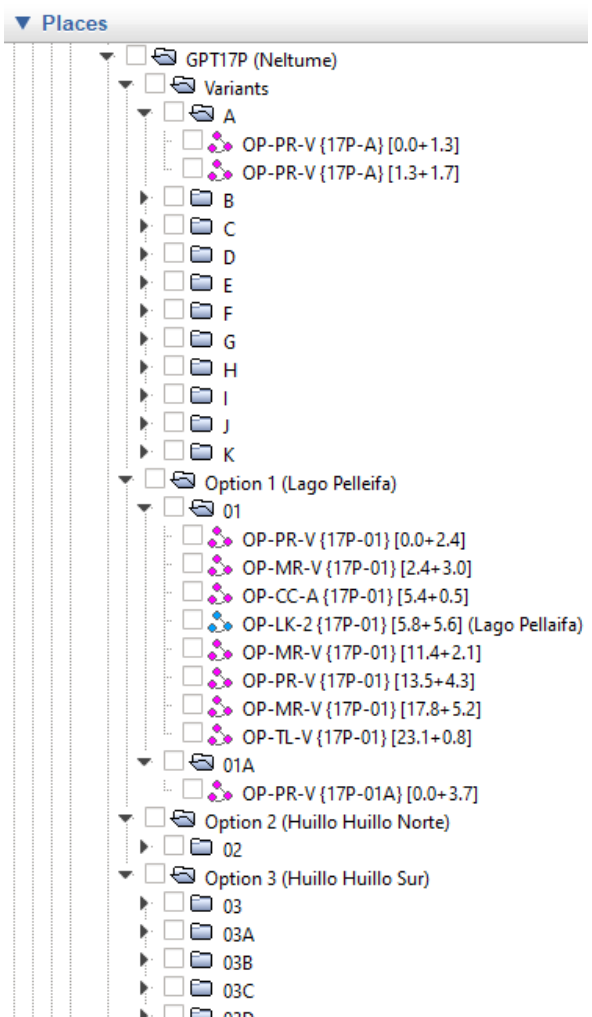


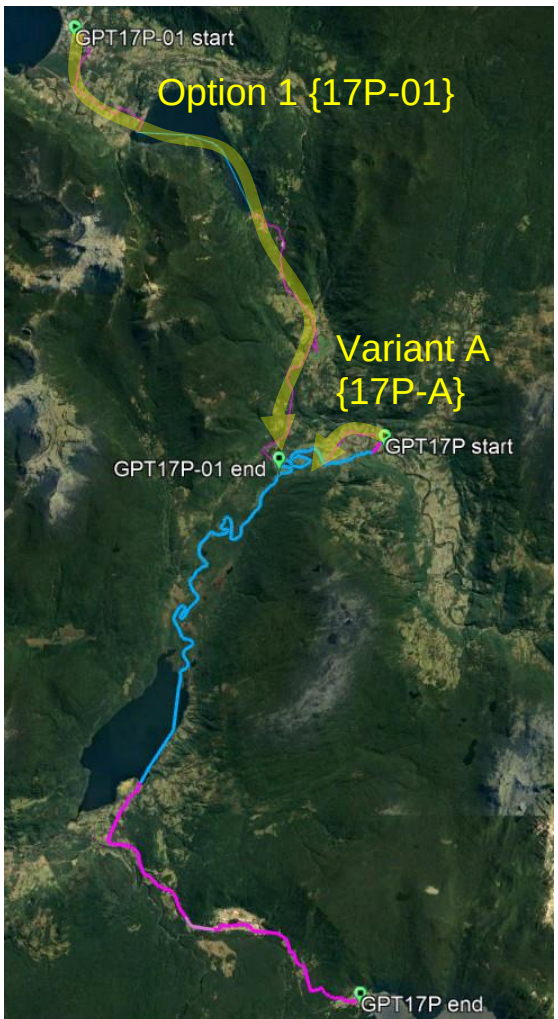
Picture 476: Track group with all tracks of one track group in colors (while the remining network is grey)

An **option** is a route that deviates significant from the regular route and that therefore deserves a separate naming and description. All options of one section have been assigned a running number and a local name and the first option of each section is always Option 1.

In the track nomenclature the option designation is always a two-digit number with Option 1 being written 01 in example {17P-01}.

In contrast, a **variant** is just minor deviation from the regular route or the main route of an option. Variants are assigned a letter in example {17P-A} or {17P-01A}. The Variant {17P-A} documents a minor variation of the Regular Route while {17P-01A} is minor alternative within Option 1.





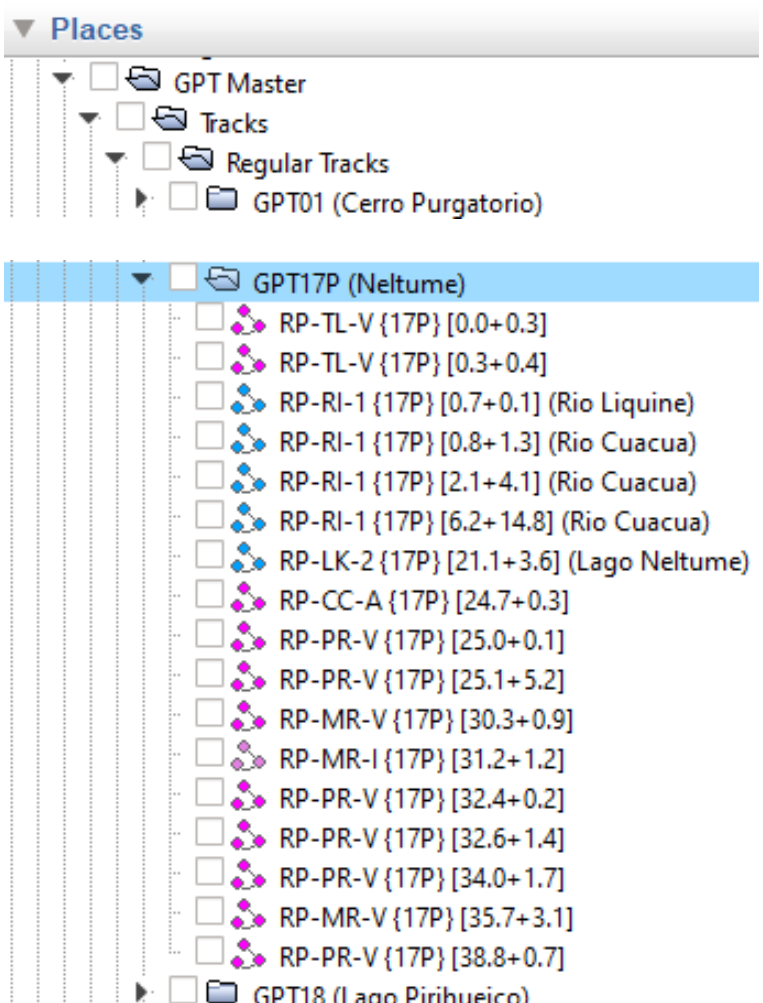
Picture 477 and 478: Variants and Options of Section GPT17P

3.3.4.4 Track Position and Track Length

Each track group forms a continuous line therefore imaginary distance or kilometer marks can be placed along the route of each track group. This position information is used to create a unique name for all tracks and all waypoints (more to waypoints later). This imaginary distance marks along each route also facilitates referencing to specific locations in route descriptions in this manual and when sharing information with other hikers on Wikiexplora.

Also, knowing the length of the tracks is of value when planning a hike or while hiking. Therefore, both distances; the **track position** (distance from the route starting point) and the **track length** are incorporated into the track designation. These two distances form the third component of track name and are placed in square brackets. The first number is the starting point in kilometer from the track group start followed by a plus sign and a second number that shows the track length in kilometer. See the example track name list on the picture to the right to verify the correct understanding of the track nomenclature.

If the regular route splits into a hiking and a packrafting route then both distances from the section start are calculated separately and displayed (packrafting first, hiking second).

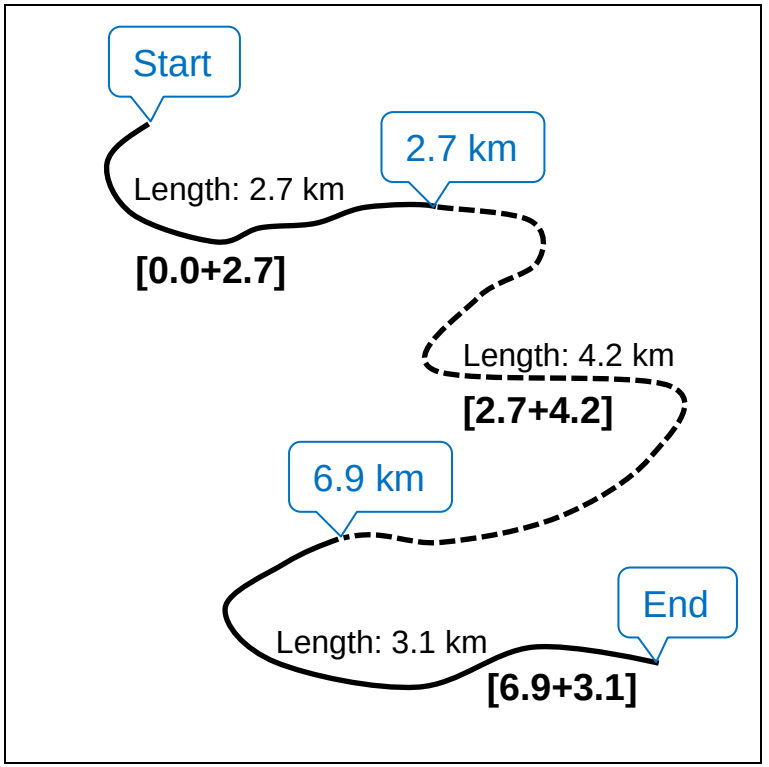


Picture 479: Track Names in Google Earth

The starting point and the track length are both displayed with one decimal place. This corresponds to a 0.1 km or 100 m resolution. Therefore, the first track of each section group starts at kilometer 0.0 and the starting point of the second track is the length of the first track. See the example graphics to the right to verify the correct understanding of the track position and track length display.

The numbering orientation is generally southbound and the starting point is at the northern terminus of these sections. Only for a few packrafting sections that can only be travelled northbound the numbering orientation is northbound.

Hikers should be aware that these distances will not precisely match the distances recorded by GPS while hiking. Normal GPS measurement errors (recording noise) and an occasionally minor detour typically result in a 5% to 10% higher recorded distance if compared with the actual length of the track of the track file.



Picture 480: Track Position and Track Length

3.3.4.5 Optional Local Name of Track

When known to the author, the locally used name is added at the end of the track designation in standard brackets. This facilitates the communication with the people that live along the route or with other hikers and packrafters.

Especially most packrafting water routes are named to the river, the lake or the fjord that this route follows.

All GPT hikers and packrafters are asked to provide missing track names if they become known in a conversation with people along these routes.

3.3.4.6 Track Nomenclature Examples

Below are four examples of track names that become decipherable and conclusive with the explanation above:

RR-TL-V {06} [45.8+10.5]					
Track Relevance	Track Terrain	Track Reliability	Track Group	Track Position	Track Length
RR: Regular Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	V: Validated Route	Section GPT06	45.8 km from section start	10.5 km
EXP-RH-CC&BB-I {47} [87.4+28.9]					
Track Relevance	Track Terrain	Track Reliability	Track Group	Track Position	Track Length
EXP: Exploration Route RH: Regular Hiking Route	CC&BB: Combination of Cross Country and Bush Bashing	I: Investigation Route	Section GPT47	87.4 km from section start	28.9 km
OH-CC-A {19-E} [0.0+0.6]					
Track Relevance	Track Terrain	Track Reliability	Track Group	Track Position	Track Length
OH: Optional Hiking Route	CC: Cross Country	A: Approximate Route	Section GPT19 Variant E	At track group start but not section start	0.6 km
OP-RI-1 {22-07} [0.0+12.2] (Rio Manso)					
Track Relevance	Track Terrain	Track Reliability	Track Group	Track Position	Track Length
OP: Optional Packrafting Route	RI: River Packrafting	1: One-Way Route	Section GPT22 Option 7	At track group start but not section start	12.2 km

Table 167: Example track names

3.3.4.7 Waypoint Nomenclature

The waypoint nomenclature corresponds closely to the track nomenclature. Each waypoint has also a unique name, in example: Puesto {02} [73.2/1857] (Huitrera Casa de Piedra)

All waypoint names consist like track names of three or four elements:

- a **waypoint designation** that names the type of waypoint: Puesto
- a **track group code** that names the section code and if applicable, the option number and variant letter of the closest track to the waypoint: {02}
- the **waypoint position and elevation**, in example: [73.2/1857]
- and an **optional local name of waypoint**, in example: (Huitrera Casa de Piedra)

To easily distinguish between the different name components the same types of brackets are used as for the track names. Only the waypoint description that comes without any brackets.

3.3.4.8 Waypoint Designation (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.9 Waypoint Track Group (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.10 Waypoint Position and Elevation (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.11 Optional Local Name of Waypoint (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.12 Waypoint Nomenclature Examples (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.13 Other Points: Important Information (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.14 Other Points: Regular Start and End Points (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.15 Other Points: Optional Start and End Points (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.16 Other Points: Resupply Locations (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.17 Other Points: Geographic Designations (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.4.18 Further Explanations to Track Relevance

The first piece of information of the track short description is the track relevance. The track relevance differentiates between **regular** routes and **optional** routes and routes that are for **hiking** and routes that are exclusively for **packrafting**.

The track relevance is abbreviated with a two-letter code. The first letter, an **R** or **O**, describes:

- **R…**: **R**egular
- **O…**: **O**ptional

The second letter, an H, P or R codes:

- **…H**: **H**iking
- **…P**: **P**ackrafting
- **…R**: Common **R**oute for hiking and packrafting

The hypothetical two-letter code OR for common optional routes is not used. Optional routes that are relevant for hiking and packrafting are optional hiking routes OH. Therefore, all track names start with one of the fife two-letter codes: **RR, RH, RP, OH or OP**.

3.3.4.18.1 Regular Routes

The **regular route** is the normally recommended route that connects the section start and the section end with a balanced route. There are often other more demanding options and less attractive shortcuts, but the regular route avoids both and is a balanced compromise between beauty and difficulty. When following the regular route, hikers are not on the easiest, shortest, or fastest route but walk mostly on scenic trails while evading the more difficult options.

All **regular routes** are shown by **thicker lines** in Google Earth and on the handheld GPS devices.

3.3.4.18.1.1 Regular Routes (RR-…)

The **R**egular **R**oute is the normally recommended route where this recommendation coincides for hiking and packrafting.

Especially on the northern sections with hardly any packrafting there is mostly just one Regular Route. Where the normally recommended route splits into a hiking and a packrafting branch, there the Regular Route ends and a Regular Hiking Route and a Regular Packrafting Route commence.

3.3.4.18.1.2 Regular Hiking Routes (RH-…)

The **R**egular **H**iking Route is the normally recommended route for hikers without packrafting gear.

Hikers without packrafting gear need to pay attention to follow the regular hiking route since the division between the hiking and packrafting route often takes place before the route reaches water. If a hiker by accident takes a packrafting route he may continue for some time on nice trails until he will eventually be stopped by a river or a lake.

The hiking version of the digital maps for GPS (IMG files) contain only routes that are relevant for hiking to avoid such errors. Packrafting routes that are irrelevant are not included at all in the hiking maps. Therefore, best load only the hiking maps when walking without packrafting gear.

The packrafting maps show all regular hiking routes as optional hiking routes since these routes can be hiked by packrafters if in example the weather does not permit a lake or fjord crossing. Therefore, packrafters should not load or activate the hiking maps when packrafting as the packrafting maps already include all hiking routes.

3.3.4.18.1.3 Regular Packrafting Routes (RP-…)

The **R**egular **P**ackrafting Route is the normally recommended route for packrafters with packrafting gear.

Regular packrafting routes include land routes to lakes, rivers or fjords and routes on water. So regular packrafting routes are not just water routes.

The regular packrafting route was generally chosen to maximize the distance on water and to minimize the walking distance on land. Therefore, also shorter water sections are included in the regular packrafting route even where it would be faster to continue hiking without packrafting[93]. This selection was applied because the GPT was developed to experience Patagonia profoundly and not to cross this region quickly. Therefore, the regular packrafting route is not optimized for speed but for diversity and his includes also shorter water routes.

[93] Packrafting slows down on shorter water routes due to the time required to inflate and load the packraft and to repack everything into the backpack after paddling.

3.3.4.18.2 Optional and Alternative Routes

Optional routes are in example ascents to summits that can be climbed without rock climbing gear or routes that make a detour over a scenic pass or exposed plateau while the regular route follows a less demanding valley. Here hikers need to make a choice based on weather, food reserves, timing and the desire to accept an extra challenge. Hikers that are interested in such scenic detours should plan for it in advance but the final call is best made while on route.

Some adjacent sections are connected by optional routes that bypass the regular section end and section start which also bypasses the resupply locations. With sufficient food still in the backpack hikers can opt for these optional routes and merge several sections into long scenic hikes that stays away from roads and populated areas.

For safety reasons also bad weather options and exit routes are included where available. These options get hikers on a faster route out of the mountains to the next village or road. These less scenic exit routes are not recommended in regular conditions but only in adverse conditions or emergencies.

The track files also incorporate investigation options and exploration options that remain to be verified by experienced hikers or packrafters. More to expedition or exploration routes later.

All **optional routes** are shown by **thinner lines** in Google Earth and on the handheld GPS devices.

3.3.4.18.2.1 Optional Hiking Routes (OH-…)

Optional **H**iking routes are all routes that may be suitable for hikers and that are not regular routes.

All optional routes are named and displayed equally, regardless if an optional route is more difficult or less demanding than the regular route. This needs to be concluded from other part of the GPT documentation or the topographical map.

Some optional hiking routes are minor variations along the regular route while other optional hiking routes are substantial detours that require additional time and therefore more food rations.

3.3.4.18.2.2 Optional Packrafting Routes (OP-…)

Optional **P**ackrafting routes are additional routes that may be relevant for packrafting only and that are not regular packrafting routes.

Optional packrafting routes include land routes and water routes.

Again, no difference is made if an optional route is more difficult or less demanding than the regular route and what purpose this optional route may serve.

Also, some optional packrafting routes are minor variations along the regular packrafting route while other optional packrafting routes are substantial detours that require additional supplies.

Optional packrafting routes are only included in the packrafting maps and not included in the hiking maps.

3.3.4.19 Further Explanations to Exploration Routes (EXP-…) (To be updated)

While planning and exploring the Greater Patagonian Trail in the last 5 years I “discovered” potential other routes without investigating them. I either I spotted promising connections on satellite images but more often settlers along the route and other hikers and packrafters told me about such options.

These exploration options and sections are more demanding if compared with Investigation Routes. Also, for many of these exploration options it remains to be verified if a traverse is indeed feasible. On these exploration routes it is quite likely that a traverse attempt needs to be aborted i.e. when an old trail became completely overgrown or when consistently strong wind prevents you from packrafting. Attempting to traverse such an exploration route is therefore rather an expedition than a hike. Plenty of food reserves should be carried, timing should be generous and returning halfway is a likely scenario. Caution is more relevant than ambition when attempting such exploration options.

Some of these exploration routes are best attempted in a specific direction. It is advisable to start closer to the critical point where a hiker may be forced to turn around. I i.e. prefer to get stack in dense vegetation after two days than to get to such a point after a week of hiking in difficult terrain. This shortens the backtrack. On some exploration section it is nearly impossible to return on the same route as the route contains downstream river floats. Here it is advisable to verify the exit first before attempting a traverse.

If you consider investigating such an expedition route please contact me. I can share my knowledge about such routes and can outline how I would explore this particular option or section.

EXPedition or **EXP**loration routes have an additional prefix in front of the track name: **EXP**.

3.3.4.20 Further Explanations to Track Terrains

The second piece of information of the track short description is the track terrain. The following nine terrain categories are used:

Hiking on Land:

- **T**rai**L**s (TL)
- **C**ross **C**ountry (CC)
- **M**inor **R**oads (MR)
- **P**rimary **R**oads (PR)
- **B**ush **B**ashing (BB)

Motorized Travel on Water:

- **F**err**Y** and boat transfer (FY)

Packrafting on Water:

- **L**a**K**e Packrafting (LK)
- **RI**ver Packrafting (RI)
- **FJ**ord Packrafting (FJ)

Occasionally, two terrain types are combined in example CC&BB if the route is a mix of cross country walking and bush bashing.

3.3.4.20.1 Hiking on Land

3.3.4.20.1.1 Horse or Hiking Trails (…-TL-…)

When planning the GPT the first choice were the horse **T**rai**L**s that traverse the remote valleys and passes in the heart of the Andes.

On many of these trails a customary right-of-way applies but some trails cross private estates, where hikers might be seen as intruders. Visitors rarely know if they are just unexpected guests or trespassers therefore be at least a respectful and pleasant trespasser, that can explain the motives of his visit in Spanish.

Gates and fences occasionally close these trails. This does not necessarily indicate the unwelcome entering or exit of a private property because gates and fences on trails are primarily installed to keep animals in or out. Therefore, keep all gates exactly as found, either close them again or leave them open.

Along these trails practically no signposts indicate directions and only few trail markers facilitate route finding. Therefore, GPS based navigation is essential on the GPT. Only in a few national parks, the former horse trails became official hiking trails and were upgraded with occasional signposts and trail markers to keep visitors on the approved routes.

Most of these trails were created by local herdsmen to drive livestock to their summer pastures and by settlers that live in solitary in the Andes. A lot of these trails are opportunistic trails. This means, that these trails do not provide the most efficient connection but that these routes were chosen to minimize the burden of building and maintaining a trail. In example, trails may climb up a ridge simply to avoid overgrown areas or an obstruction further down. If sediments next to a river eliminate the need to cut a trail

through the forest, then the visible trail disappears and leads over these sediments even if they are occasionally flooded and cumbersome to walk. Only in few locations trails were built with brute force.

Keep in mind that locals rarely ever walk; they move on horseback. All the physical effort that ascents and descents require are done by the horses. Therefore, some trails involve a lot of "pointless up and down" simply because it meant fewer burden when initially creating the trail. Also, river crossings are less hassle on horseback; it’s not the rider’s feet that get wet. For this reason, some trails switch frequently the river sides just to avoid minor obstacles that are located on alternating sides of the river.

Less established trails often split into different branches, and it remains often blurred what is the main trail and what is just a cattle treading. In open terrain where neither the landscape nor the vegetation constrains riding or walking, there trails occasionally peter out and disappear completely but re-emerge where obstructions force all animals, riders, and hikers onto a single path.

In the Alps and other frequently visited mountain ranges scenic panorama trails were built with brute force that sneak on a mostly constant altitude through the mountains to attract tourists for an effortless walk. I’m not aware of any such trails in the Andes. Locals established trails to get from one place to another but never to have great views or to attract visitors. Only where a trail on a ridge above the tree line provides a better connection, there such panorama routes are chosen opportunistically.

Add images.

3.3.4.20.1.2 Cross Country Routes (…-CC-…)

The second choice are **C**ross **C**ountry routes. Here the GPT crosses through open terrain without a visible trail. Some of these routes lead through steep and exposed terrain above the tree line but do not require technical climbing. These cross country routes often belong to the finest parts of the GPT because they provide access into barely visited areas high up in the Patagonian Andes with wide open views.

In this cross country terrain hikers should seek their own way following the approximate route without feeling bound to the track line. The tracks in cross country terrain are displayed as straight lines to indicate the approximate direction and not to show a particular path that needs to be followed precisely. Hikers must apply (as always!) their own judgment to avoid obstacles on such cross country routes. Towards the end of a cross country route hikers need to return to the GPS track to in example find the trail head at the entrance into a forest or overgrown area.

The cross country routes do not pass very dense vegetation.

Add images.

3.3.4.20.1.3 Minor and Two-Track Roads (…-MR-…)

A good proportion of the GPT network follows **M**inor **R**oads and two-track roads. Such minor roads typically provide access to isolated settlements or villages without attracting any transit traffic.

Until recently, some of these villages could only be reached on horseback or by foot. Regional governments try to improve the living conditions in these remote settlements by upgrading the traditional horse trails into minor dirt roads. This might be sad for hikers but since we are only guests, we have no reason to complain.

Other routes that are categorized as minor roads are simple two-track roads (NOT two-lane roads!) which are basically car tracks that formed when locals were driving their all-terrain vehicles to their homes and outposts without building a proper road. Also, forest and logging roads are put in this category.

These minor roads may be private or public. Gates and fences occasionally close these minor roads what may indicate the entrance or exit of a private property. But gates are primarily set up to keep animals in or out. Again, keep all gates exactly as found, either close them again or leave them open.

Some of these minor roads became neglected and unmaintained and are now impassable for vehicles. But hikers can still use such deteriorated roads if they don't mind climbing over fallen trees and seek their way through washed out parts.

Many hiking trails in Europe would fall in this category of minor roads since many hiking trails in Europe are occasionally used by forestry and agricultural vehicles. Add images.

3.3.4.20.1.4 Primary and Paved Roads (…-PR-…)

Public **P**rimary **R**oads with transit traffic were avoided wherever possible. On such primary roads hikers may experience some moderate traffic but they are generally safe to walk. Primary roads can be paved or gravel roads.

If not insisting on connecting footsteps, then hikers may try to hitch-hike on these primary roads. Some drivers will even stop without being asked and offer a ride as this is part of the back country culture in this region.

Some of these primary roads are also occasionally served by public transportation. Best ask people along the road if wishing to “fast forward” on these less attractive routes to spend more time on scenic trails.

Add images.

3.3.4.20.1.5 Bush Bashing Routes (…-BB-…)

On a few shorter stretches hikes need to traverse overgrown terrain and do some **B**ush **B**ashing. In some parts this cannot be avoided because old unused trails became overgrown or simply no trail was ever made.

For someone that is used to hike fast and efficient this might be frustrating but patient hikers will find their way step by step even in this challenging terrain. The speed in such terrain drops may drop to 250 m per hour in very dense vegetation and the typical speed is 1 km/h.

A machete can be beneficial on bush bashing routes in particular when crossing patches of *Coligüe* and *Quila* or to cut back thorny branches and twigs.

Add images.

3.3.4.20.2 Motorized Travel on Water

3.3.4.20.2.1 Ferry and Boat Transfer Routes (…-FY-…)

Several lakes along the route that cannot be walked around on a suitable hiking route. When thru-hiking the entire GPT from Santiago de Chile to Isla Navarino in two or three hiking seasons, then hikers need to cross at least 4 lakes[94] and 2 fjords[95] by **F**err**Y**. So, the entire length of the GPT cannot be walked without using motorized travel.

When packrafting the GPT, then some lakes and fjords along the packraft route are simply too big and exposed for such a small boat, so also packrafters will rely on ferries.

In some locations hikers and packrafters can take regular ferries that operates with scheduled services while in other locations hikers need to arrange a personal boat transfer with settlers that lives along the route. To arrange such personal boat transfer some Spanish language skills are essential.

Add images.

[94] Lago Pirihueico, Lago Todos Los Santos, Lago General Carrera and Lago Argentina.
[95] Estrecho de Magallanes and Canal Beagle.

3.3.4.20.3 Packrafting on Water

Wherever feasible, the Greater Patagonian Trail incorporates lake crossings, downstream river floats and packrafting in fjords. Hikers that do not carry such a light-weight inflatable boat should follow the hiking route because all packrafting routes eventually reach a river, a lake or a fjord without the option to continue walking.

When taking the packrafting route but the weather does not permit paddling then some but not all these water routes can be bypassed on foot, by ferry or with private boat transfer. Therefore, packrafters should carefully plan ahead to understand the bad-weather-options and carry additional reserves to adopt plans as needed.

Public access to lakes, rivers and the shores is legally guaranteed in Chile. Therefore, packrafting causes less right-of-way disputes than hiking. Only the land access to lakes, rivers or the coast may be challenged but this rarely occurs.

In Chile, boating the lakes and fjords in proximity to the international border may require permits from the *Marina* (Chilean Navy) but requirements are impractical for packrafts (in example an anker, signalling fireworks and satellite telephone). Therefore, packrafter typically do not attempt to obtain these permits.

3.3.4.20.3.1 Lake Packrafting Routes (...-LK-….) (To be updated)

The GPT incorporates XY **L**a**K**e crossings into the regular packrafting route and further XY **L**a**K**es are part of the options. In calm weather all these lakes are suitable for packrafts but even small lakes become hostile in strong wind. When travelling southbound a good proportion of the lake crossings are oriented in the predominant wind direction, but some lakes crossings require a careful timing to reach the lake exit before the wind picks up what on a typical day occurs around noon.

The crossings of the most wind exposed lakes, like Lago General Carrera and Lago O’Higgins are only feasible during short windows of opportunity in exceptional calm weather. In these locations, the wind may not calm down for several days and attempting these exploration water routes is a gamble with the weather.

The suggested packrafting routes are generally close to the shore but cross open water as needed. A good proportion of the lake shores do not provide suitable camp sites, therefore lake crossings should not be started in deteriorating conditions. The longest lake paddle sections without suitable camp sites is XY kilometer long.

Add images.

3.3.4.20.3.2 River Packrafting Routes (…-RI-…)

The regular packrafting route includes XY **RI**vers, and additional XY rivers can be paddled as part of the packrafting options. The longest unbroken river ride of the GPT is on Río Palena that starts near the border to Argentina reaches the Pacific after 180 km.

The incorporated rivers packrafting routes are mostly on relative clam flat water and do not require serious white-water paddling. But there are some Class 1 and Class 2 rapids on the packrafting route that depending on the water level may transform into Class 3 rapids. At such minor or moderate rapids scouting is strongly recommended to either take the rapid or portage along the river shore.

The high-volume rivers like Río Baker, Río Pascua and Río Palena expose packrafters to heavy boils and eddies that are often not clearly visible until in these turbulent waters. Therefore, a cautious reading of the water is important.

A much more frequent thread for packrafters are fully and partially submerged trees that frequently fall into the river when the water current washes out the river shore. Again, a cautious reading of the water is essential to evade such obstacles.

Major rapids that are Class 3, Class 4 or Class 5 are excluded from the packrafting river routes and an river exit and a portage route is indicated in the track file.

The classification is at least partly based on satellite images and not on scouting. This applies in particular to unverified exploration river routes. Therefore, extra caution is required when investigating such exploration routes.

Add images.

3.3.4.20.3.3 Fjord Packrafting Routes (…-FJ-…)

The GPT route network was expended into the Patagonian **FJ**ords after initial investigations between 2018 and 2020 proved packrafting these fjords feasible and rewarding.

The XY kilometer long region from Fiordo Reloncaví to Puerto Cisnes offers some reasonable sheltered fjords and lightly populated coast lines. Water routes that are next to a populated coast and an alternative land route can be attempted with a classic open packraft as exiting the sea in deterioration weather is normally feasible.

But a good proportion of the fjord routes are remote that should only be attempted with a decked packraft, large food reserves and a machete. In these remote fjords suddenly increasing wind can pin down a packrafter in an unfavourable location and if unfortunate, it may take days till the wind dies down again. Therefore, packrafters that venture into these remote fjords should be prepared to sit out several days of windy weather on a densely overgrown coast.

Tides pose an additional challenge in the fjords as tidal currents can slow or stop a packrafter completely. Also, tides often flood the unvegetated beaches that appear like attractive camp sites at low tide.

These challenges make a careful selection and planning fjord packrafting important. The track files itself do not differentiate between easily feasible and more demanding fjord routes (except the Exploration category). This analysis should be done based on topographic maps and route descriptions.

Add images.

3.3.4.21 Further Explanations to Track Reliability and Travel Direction (To be updated)

The third piece of information of the track short description is the track reliability of land routes or the track direction of water routes.

3.3.4.21.1 Track Reliability of Routes on Land (To be updated)

3.3.4.21.1.1 Verified Land Routes (…-V)

Verified or validated routes are tracks have either been walked and recorded by GPS or that are clearly visible on satellite images[96]. On such routes hikers can be confident that the track is rather precise therefore **hiker should attempt to stay on the verified track** because there is normally no good reason to search for a better route in the vicinity. But a verified track does not always guarantee a trouble-free hike since previously recorded routes can become overgrown or closed by the landlord.

On a Garmin GPS verified routes are displayed as **solid lines**.

Add Garmin GPS screenshot.

[96] High resolution satellite images are occasionally sufficient to clearly identify well-maintained trails and easily traversable cross country terrain without additional ground-proving.

3.3.4.21.1.2 Approximate Land Routes (…-A)

About 10% of the regular route are cross country and bush bashing routes without a clearly visible trail. On such **A**pproximate routes **it is not advisable to stay precisely on the track** indicated by GPS because in these areas the GPS provides only an approximate route. Depending on landscape features like smaller canyons or rocky areas or snow cover it is occasionally impossible to precisely follow the track. On such approximate routes hikers rely on their own route-finding-instincts but still check occasionally the GPS to not wander too far off the approximate route. On approximate routes hikers need to “seek their own adventure” as Bethany and Lauren described it.

Approximate routes are displayed on a Garmin GPS as **dotted lines**.

Add Garmin GPS screenshot.

3.3.4.21.1.3 Investigation Land Routes (…-I)

A part of the regular route and many of the optional routes have not been verified yet. Either people have hiked these routes without creating or sharing GPS records or the author of the GPT obtained reliable information that these routes exist but was unable to precisely draft the tracks with satellite images alone. Investigation routes are often not yet recorded trails.

On such investigation routes hikers can be **reasonably confident that a walkable connection exits** but **the published track does not display the precise trail or route**. On investigation routes hikers need to deploy their trail-finding-skills and should use the adjacent verified tracks and the waypoints along the investigation route as reference points for the investigation. Also having high-resolution satellite images on a smartphone can be beneficial when locating an investigation route.

The key difference between an investigation route and an exploration route is the following:

- An investigation route is most likely traversable but extra time might be needed to search the correct route.
- An exploration routes offers less certainty and backtracking is a likely scenario.

On investigation routes it is essential that hikers record the entire investigation by GPS to fill the remaining “gaps” in the GPT track file with validated routes. Any GPS record is useful in particular when accompanied with a description. Combining GPS records from several hikers often reveals the best route especially when the investigation was done in opposite directions.

Investigation routes are displayed on a Garmin GPS as **dashed lines**.

Add Garmin GPS screenshot.

3.3.4.21.2 Travel Direction of Ferry and Packrafting Routes on Water (To be updated)

Lakes, rivers and fjords are perfectly visible on satellite images. Therefore, water routes can be planned with satellite images only and on water a precise route is often anyway not required in example when crossing a lake or a fjord by packraft. Therefore, a differentiation between verified routes, approximate routes and investigation routes makes little sense for water routes. The more important piece of information to water routes are the feasible travel directions.

3.3.4.21.2.1 Two-Way Water Routes (…-2)

Most lakes and fjords can be paddled in either direction. The same applies to ferries that follow a set route and run on a schedule going forward and backward between two or more ports. These are therefore Two-Way water routes.

On some lakes and fjords a particular travel direction might be preferable when packrafting due to the predominant wind direction but this does not mean that one direction is mandatory.

But there is one aspect that a packrafter must know: the flow direction of the rivers. The flow of most rivers exceeds the paddling speed of a packraft therefore paddling upstream is not an option. This makes virtually all river to One-Way routes.This often determines the travel direction of the packrafting sections and this information is also included in the track nomenclature and displayed in the digital maps for Garmin GPS devices.

Two-Way water routes contain a 2 in the track name.

3.3.4.21.2.2 One-Way Water Routes (…-1)

As outlined above most incorporated packrafting routes on rivers are One-Way water routes because they are feasible in one direction only.

The same applies to some boat transfers. On some lakes and rivers settlers can ferry hikers over a lake or along a river. As these settlers live in a particular place arranging such a boat transfer is a lot easier in one direction. This does not mean that it is impossible to take this route in the opposite direction but pre-arrangements must be made. To avoid nasty surprises such boat transfers are named and displayed as One-Way routes.

One-Way water routes have a **1** in the track name.

3.3.4.22 Further Explanations to Waypoint Designations (To be issued)

The below listed waypoint designations are (planned to be) used in the GPT track files.

The symbols are (planned to be) colour coded:

- Blue for locations that typically provide access to drinking water,
- red for location where normally people are present and
- a neutral colour for all other waypoints.
- Inverted colours are applied to abandoned items.

Designation	Category	Symbol	Comment
Airfield	Transport	Plane	Airfields are landing strips that are often not manned and that become useful in emergencies. Airports with scheduled flights are not documented as waypoint but as Resupply Locations.
Border	Route, Landmark	Star	The border controls are typically not at the border but several kilometers away. Borders are rarely marked. Travellers should not cross a border without obtaining the exit stamp at the border control first.
Border Control AR	Route, People	Passport	Argentine border control staffed by Argentine *Gendarmería* where travellers obtain the exit and entry stamps.
Border Control CL	Route, People	Passport	Chilean border control staffed by Chilean *Carabineros* or *PDI* where travellers obtain the exit and entry stamps.
Bridge	Route, Water	Bridge	Bridge over a river. Some bridges are poorly maintained and not necessarily safe to use.

Designation	Category	Symbol	Comment
Building	Landmark	House	Building that is visible on satellite images but that does not appear to be the home of a settler. In an emergency a building may provide some shelter but not necessarily human support.
Bus	Transport	Bus	Location where travellers may board a bus. Best ask locals for the bus schedule.
Camp	Sleeping	Tent	Suitable location for pitching a tent with drinking water nearby.
Camp NO Water	Sleeping	Tent	Suitable location for pitching a tent WITHOUT drinking water nearby.
CONAF	People	House	Guard house manned by *CONAF* (Chilean park administration). Here entry permits may be obtained, and entry fees may need to be paid.
Emergency Camp	Sleeping	Tent	Less suitable location for pitching a tent in an area with very few camp sites.
Emergency Exit	Route	Exit	Routes or location where a hike can be aborted.
Fence	Route	Gate	Location where a fence obstructs a route.
Ferry	Transport	Ship	Port where a ferry can be boarded or location where a boat transfer may start or end.
Fjord	Packrafting	Boat	Shore where a fjord packrafting route starts or ends.
Food	Food	Money	Location where food is (informally) sold but that is not a shop or a mini shop.
Ford	Route, Water	Ford	River crossing that requires wading through water. Depending on the timing and the weather a river crossing be unsafe or impossible. Good judgment is required.
Fords Start/End	Route, Water	Ford	If multiple rivers crossings are required in close succession than not every ford is marked individually but only the first and the last ford.
Gate	Route	Gate	Location where a fence obstructs a trail or minor road. Gates may be locked.

Designation	Category	Symbol	Comment
Guardaparque	People	House	Guard house manned by *Guardaparque* (Argentine park administration). Here entry permits may be obtained, and entry fees may need to be paid.
Hot Spring	Landmark	Star	Thermal bath that may be managed or unmanaged. If managed, then entry fees may be charged.
Lake	Packrafting	Boat	Shore where a lake packrafting route starts or ends.
Lake/River	Packrafting	Boat	Location where a packrafting route exits a lake and enters a river.
Landmark	Landmark	Star	Any other landmark that is not a building, a lighthouse, or a mine.
Lighthouse	Landmark	Star	Lighthouse, beacon or navigation aid on the shore of fjords or lakes.
Lodging	Sleeping	House	Hotel, hostel, cabaña or settler's home where lodging is offered or available on request.
Mine	Landmark	Star	Active or inactive mine.
Mini Shop	Food	Money	Small shop where some food items, snacks or beverages are offered but that is insufficient for a normal resupply.
NO Camp	Sleeping	~~Tent~~	Location where camping may appear suitable but where camping is not recommended, prohibited, or banned.
Pass	Route	Pass	Mountain pass or saddle where a route reaches the high point.
Police	People	House	Police post that is normally manned by *Carabinieros* (Chile) or *Gendarmería* (Argentina) and that is not border control. Both nations maintain numerous permanent or temporary police posts in the vicinity of the border to repress smuggeling.
Port	Transport	Boat	Port that is not served by ferries that are relevant GPT travellers.

Designation	Category	Symbol	Comment
Puesto	Shelter	Shelter	Shelter where an *arriero* or *puestero* lives temporary during grazing season. In an emergency a *puesto* may provide shelter and possibly support.
Puesto NO Water	Shelter	Shelter	Puesto with not drinking water nearby.
Rapid	Packrafting	Wave	Minor or moderate rapid on a packrafting river route. These rapids are mostly Class 1 and Class 2 but can transform into Class 3 if the water level is abnormal. Scouting is recommended. A portage along the river shore may be advisable depending on the water level and individual expertise.
Major Rapid	Packrafting	~~Boat~~	Large rapid that is Class 3, Class 4 or Class 5 and that is excluded from the packrafting river route. A portage is strongly recommended. Note, that scouting may not be possible because the last suitable river exit may be upstream and inaccessible after scouting.
Major Rapids End	Packrafting	~~Boat~~	End of a river section with several rapids. A portage may be required.
Major Rapids Start	Packrafting	~~Boat~~	Start of a river section with several rapids. A portage may be required.
Restaurant	Food	Money	Restaurant on or near a GPT route.
River	Packrafting	Boat	River shore where a river packrafting route starts or ends.
River In	Packrafting	Boat	River shore where a river packrafting route starts.
River Out	Packrafting	Boat	River shore where a river packrafting route ends.
River/Fjord	Packrafting	Boat	River mouth where a packrafting route exits a river and enters a fjord.
River/Lake	Packrafting	Boat	River mouth where a packrafting route exits a river and enters a lake.
River/River	Packrafting	Boat	Confluence where a packrafting route exits the tributary and affluent river and enters the main stream.
Road End	Route	Shoe	Terminus (or start) of a road.

Designation	Category	Symbol	Comment
Settlement	People	House	Area where several settlers are living all year around. In case of emergency human support is likely available.
Settler	People	House	Settler's home that appears most of the year populated.
Shelter	Shelter	Shelter	Shelter or refuge that was specifically build for travellers. A refuge is normally open but unlikely provides human support in an emergency. Drinking water is normally available nearby.
Shelter NO Water	Shelter	Shelter	Shelter or refuge with not drinking water nearby.
Shop	Food, People	Money	Shop where a reasonable range food items, snacks or beverages is offered and that may be sufficient for a resupply.
Summit	Route	Peak	Mountain summit.
Taxi	Transport	Bus	Location where travellers may hire a taxi or *flete*. Ask locals for available services.
Trailhead	Route	Shoe	Terminus (or start) of a trail.
Tourist Info	People	Person	Tourist information that may be manned during the tourist season.
Tyrolean Traverse	Route	Shoe	Permanently installed steel rope or zip-line over a river. With the appropriate gear river fording may be avoided.
Viewpoint	Route	Shoe	Outlook with a particular good or scenic view.
Water	Water	Bottle	Spring or small stream that normally provides drinking water. A water treatment or filtering may be advisable.
Y	Route	Y	Route bifurcation, crossing, junction, or diversion.
(abandoned)	-	Inverted Colours	Abandoned settlement, settler's home, *puesto*, building or other abandoned item. Such waypoints are included and displayed for navigation only.

Table 168: Waypoint Designation and Category

3.3.5 Track File Display in Google Earth and on GPS

Tracks are displayed in Google Earth and on the GPS as lines. The line width, the line color and the line style were chosen to display the most relevant information to these tracks.

The regular routes are shown as wider lines while the optional routes are finer lines. This facilitates following the regular route and not getting confused by the numerous options while navigating on the trail with GPS.

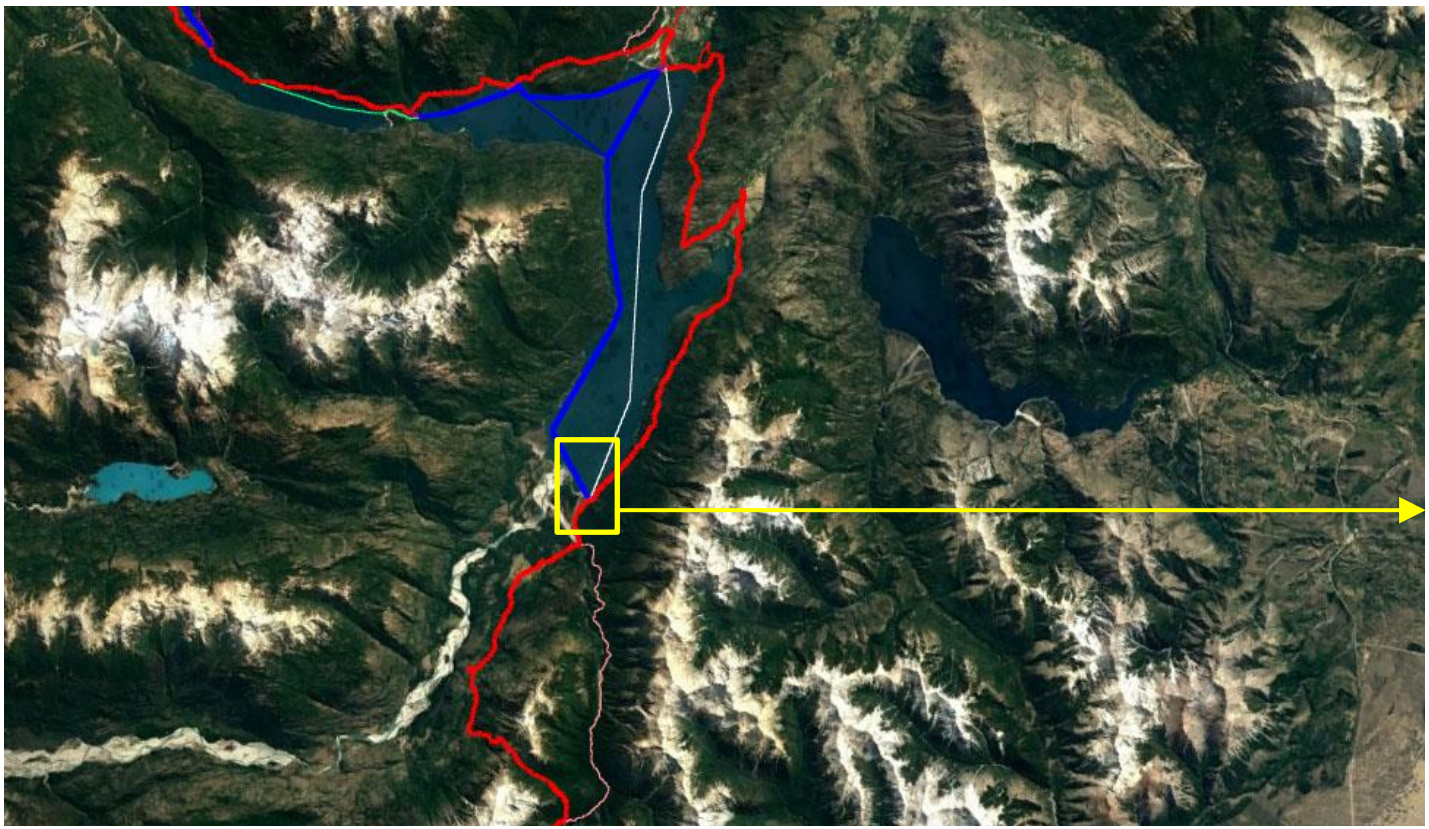
The line colors were chosen to provide the best possible contrast to the rather dark satellite images and the often white background of the topographic map on the GPS screen. The quite different color patterns of the satellite images and the topographic maps make it impractical to use the same color codes in Google Earth and on the GPS.

Another difference between Google Earth and GPS are the available options for displayable line styles. Currently Google Earth supports only simple solid lines of different width and different colors while a Garmin GPS can display i.e. dotted, dashed or arrowed lines. This is an excellent feature to display more information to each route by using corresponding line styles. I.e. arrows are perfect to display the orientation of One-Way tracks.

Below you find a legend to the applied line width, line colors and line styles. If the first page of the table leaves you confused move on to the sample screen shots that follow. There you see actual track displays in Google Earth and on a Garmin GPS screen and some explaining words to the appearance of the various tracks on the different devices. See also Table 14: Satellite Image Line Codes on page 352.

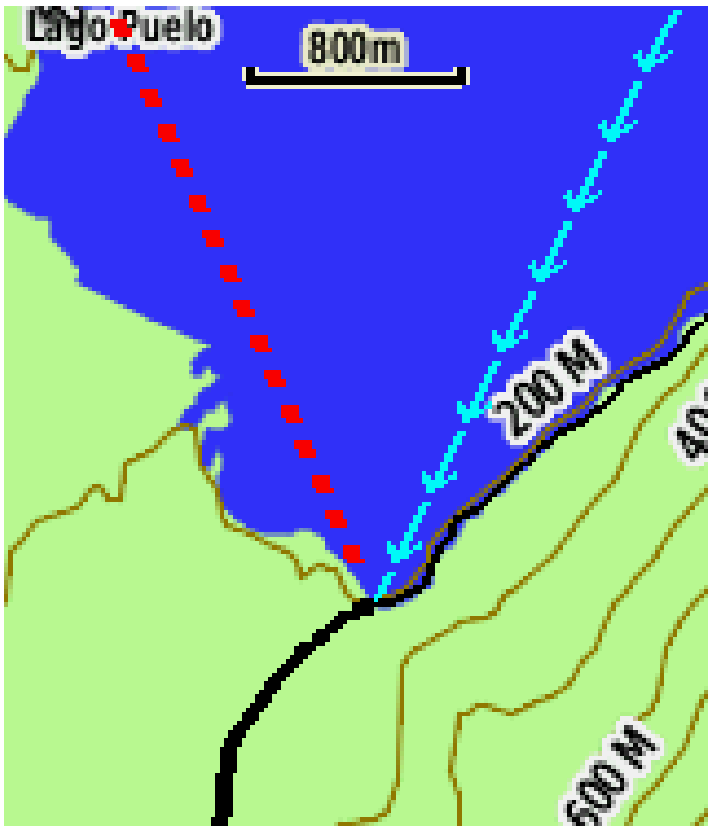
Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS				
Track Relevance and Function		**Google Earth**	**GPS Hiking Maps**	**GPS Packrafting Maps**
RR	Regular Route	**Thick Lines**	**Thick Lines**	**Thick Lines**
RH	Regular Hiking Route			Fine Lines
RP	Regular Packrafting Route		*Not displayed*	**Thick Lines**
OH	Optional Hiking Route	Fine Lines	Fine Lines	Fine Lines
OP	Optional Packrafting Route		*Not displayed*	
Track Terrains		**Google Earth**	**GPS Hiking Map**	**GPS Packrafting Map**
BB	Bush Bashing Routes	Hiking Land Routes (RR, RH, OH): Red Lines (Verfied and Apporximate) or Rose Lines (Investigation) Packrafting Route on Land (RP, OP): Violet Lines (Verfied and Apporximate) or Light Violet Lines (Investigation)	All Hiking and Packrafting Routes on Land: Black Lines Note that packrafting routes are only displayed on the packrafting maps therefore it is not required to use different line colors like done with the single file for Google Earth.	
CC	Cross Country Route			
TL	Horse or Hiking Trail			
MR	Minor and Two-Track Roads			
PR	Primary and Paved Roads			
FY	Ferry and Boat Transfer Routes	White Lines	Light Blue Lines	
RI	River Packrafting	Blue Lines	*not displayed*	All Packrafting Routes on Water: Red Lines
LK	Lake Packrafting			
FJ	Fjord Packrafting			
Track Reliability and Direction		**Google Earth**	**GPS Hiking Map**	**GPS Packrafting Map**
V	Validated Land Route	Red Lines (RR, RH, OH) or Violet Lines (RP, OP)	Solid Lines	
A	Approximate Land Route		Dotted Lines	
I	Investigation Land Route	Rose Lines or Light Violet Lines	Dashed Lines	
2	Two-Way Water Route	White Lines (FY) or Blue Lines (RI, LK, FJ)	Dotted Lines	
1	One-Way Water Route		Arrowed Lines	

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 481: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Different colors were selected to display the same item in Google Earth and on GPS devices to archive optimal contrasts. This might be confusing at first but becomes beneficial when regularly used. One-way and two-way water routes are not differentiated in Google Earth but on GPS maps.



Picture 482: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

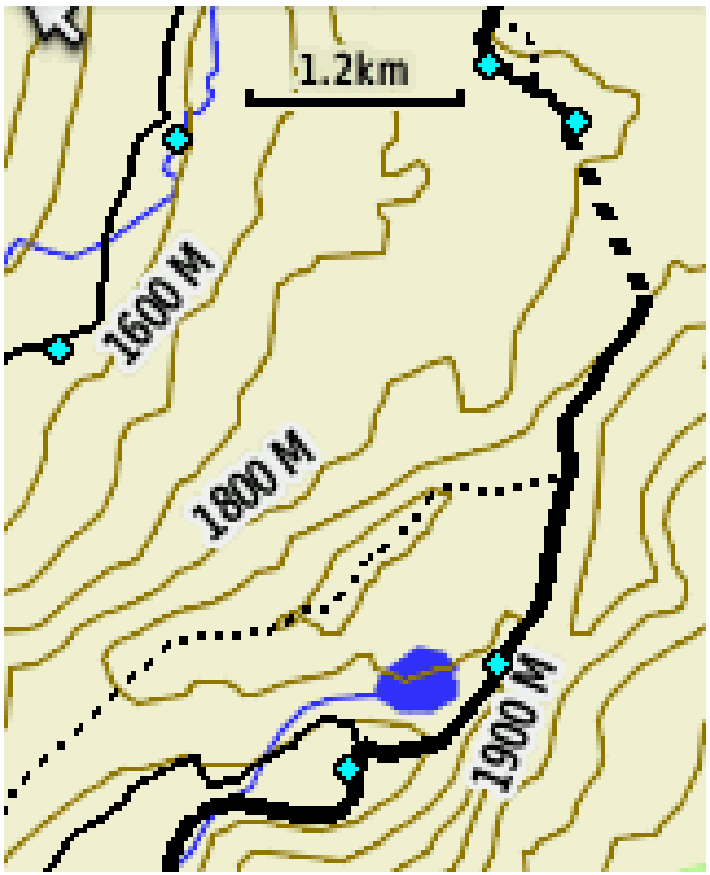
Note: Boat transfer is one-way since only in one direction easily to be arranged. Packrafting on lake is two-way since feasible in both directions.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 483: Google Earth Screen Shoot

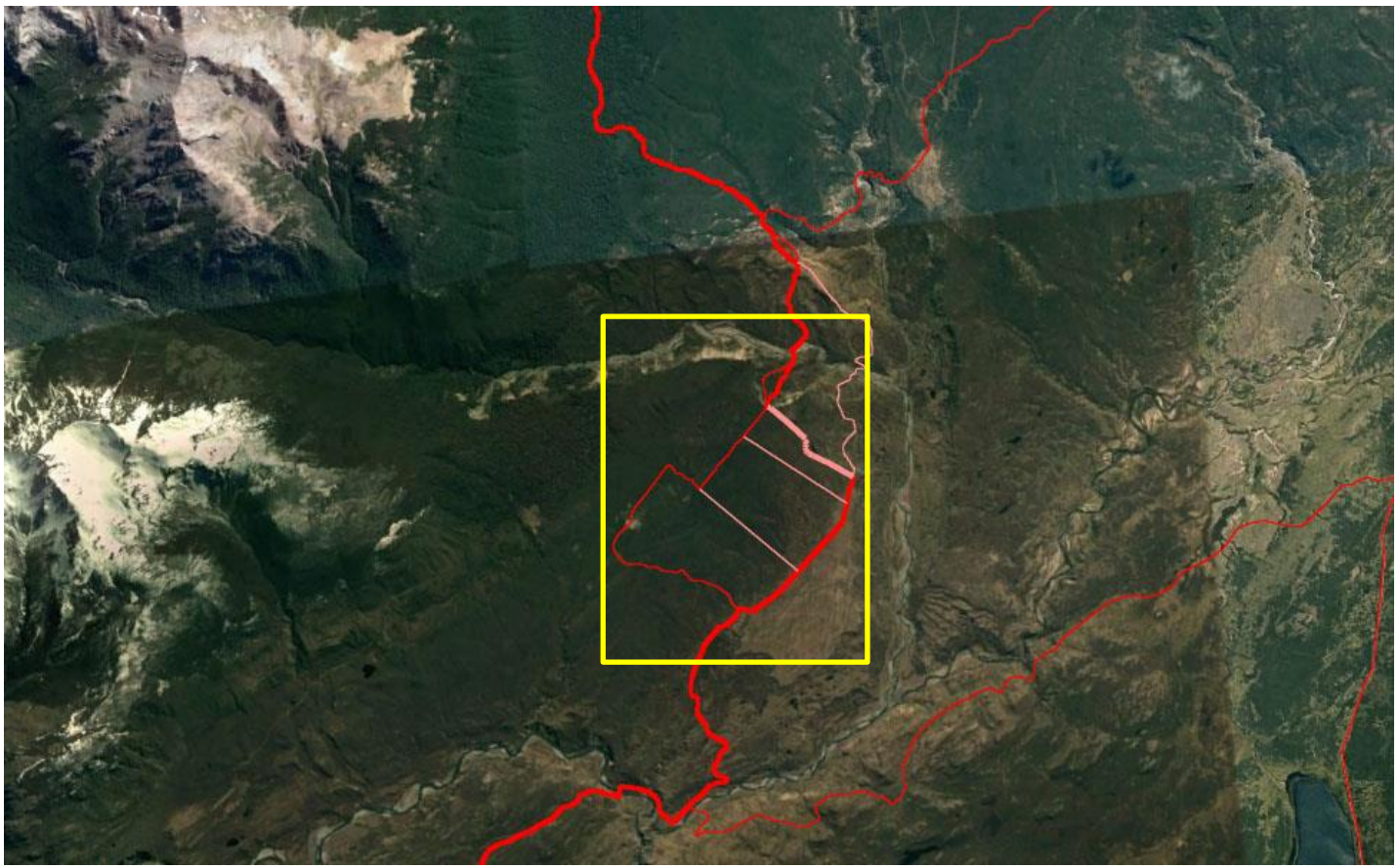
Note: Regular routes are thicker in both displays (Google Earth and GPS). Optional routes are finer lines in both displays. Verified and approximate routes on land are red solid lines.



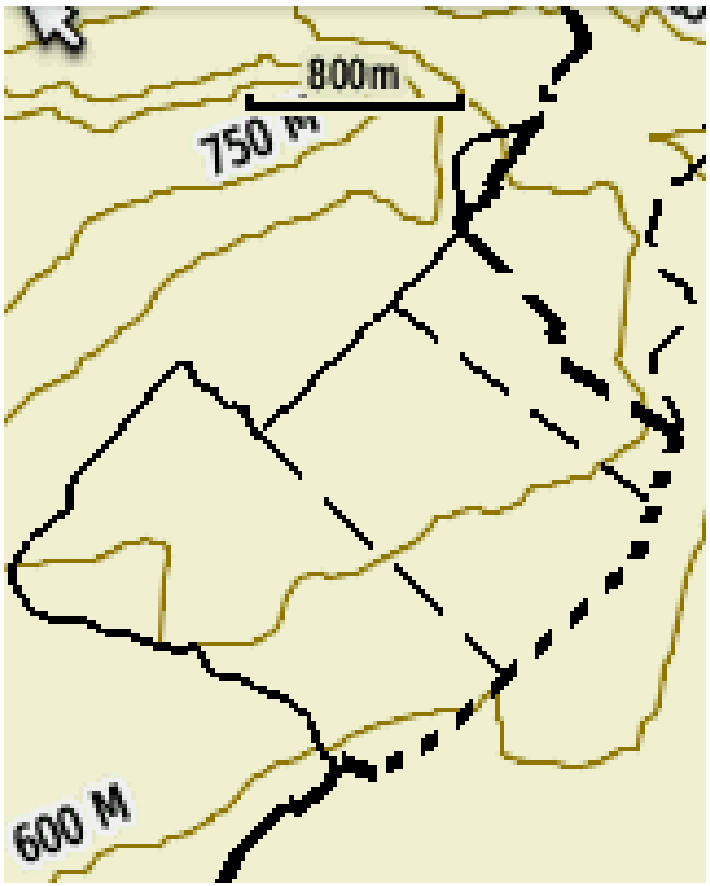
Picture 484: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Land routes are black. Approximate cross-country routes are displayed as dotted lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS

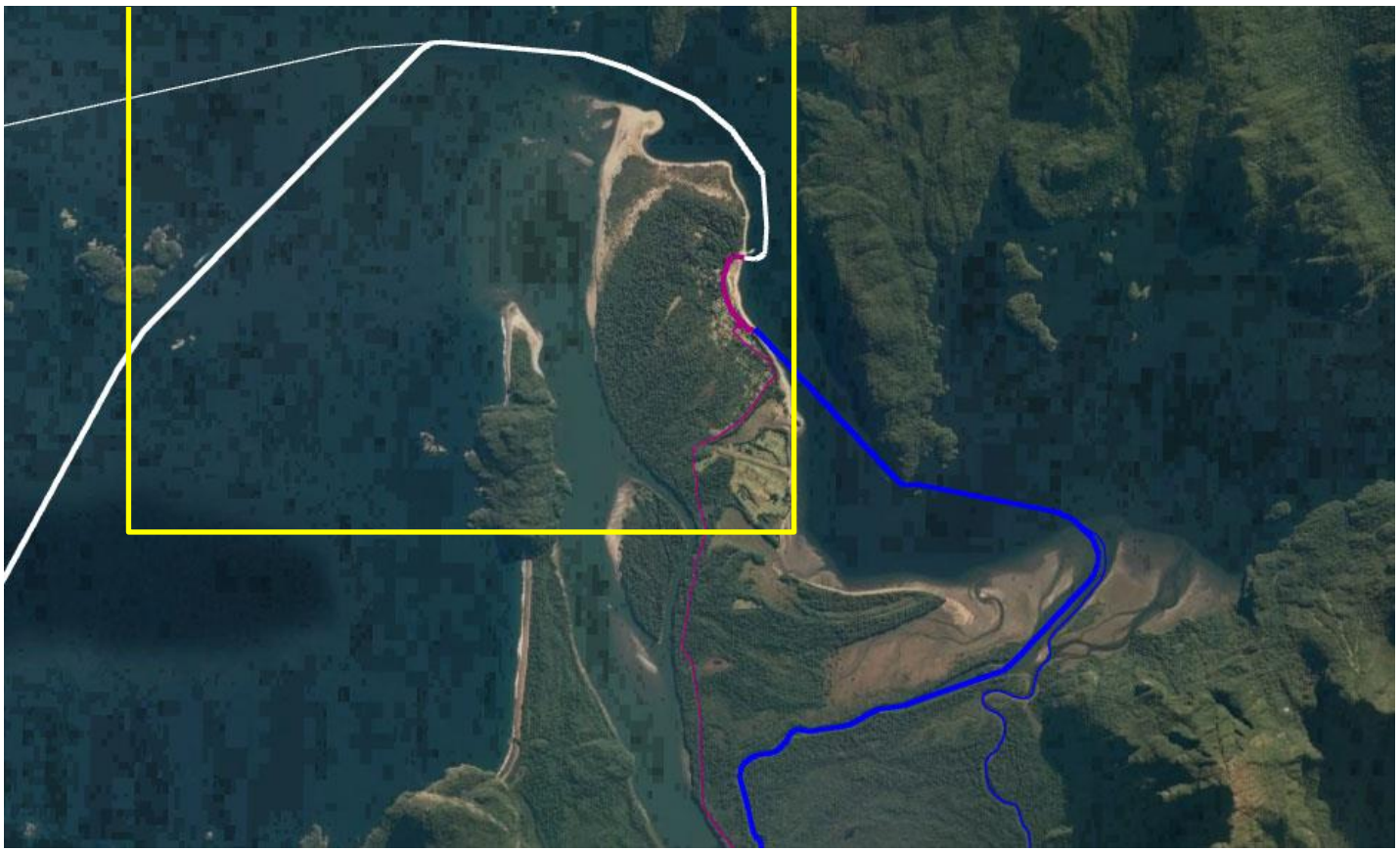


Picture 485: Google Earth Screen Shoot
Note: Investigation routes are rose and differentiated from verified and approximate routes.



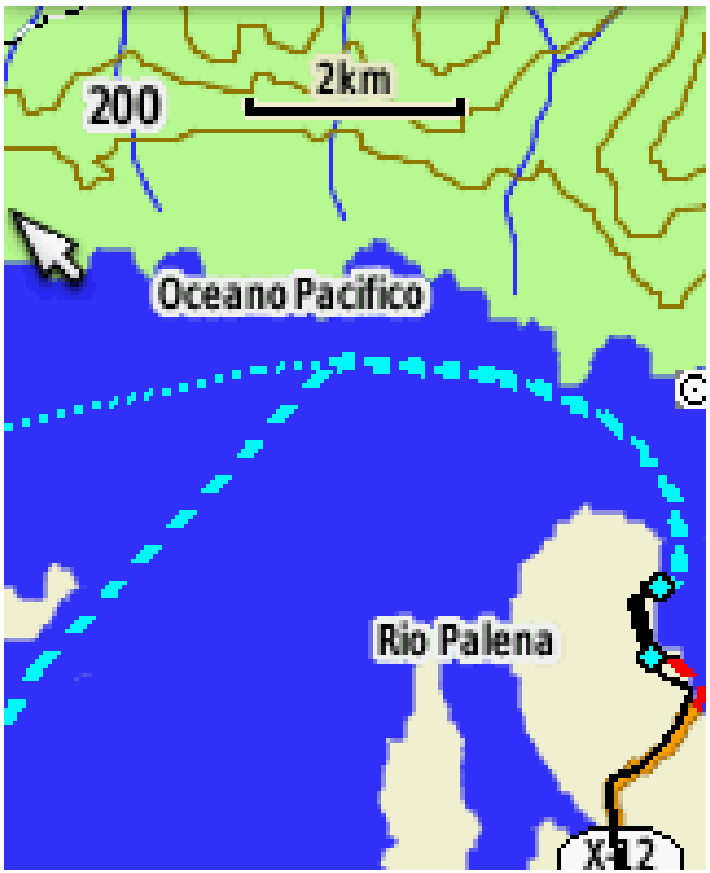
Picture 486: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot
Note: Investigation routes are dashed lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 487: Google Earth Screen Shoot

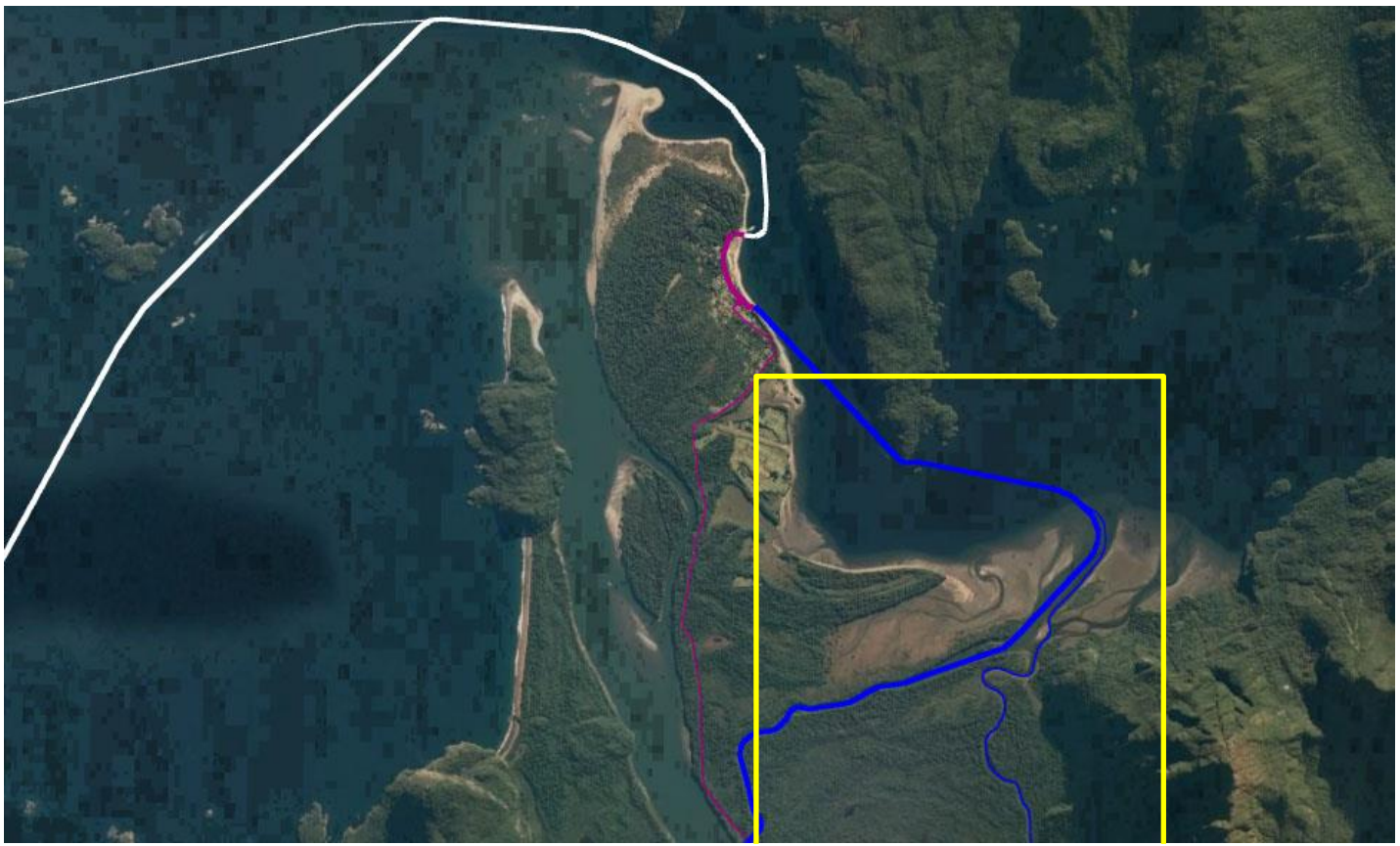
Note: Ferry and boat transfer routes are white. Land routes that are exclusively relevant for packrafting are violet.



Picture 488: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

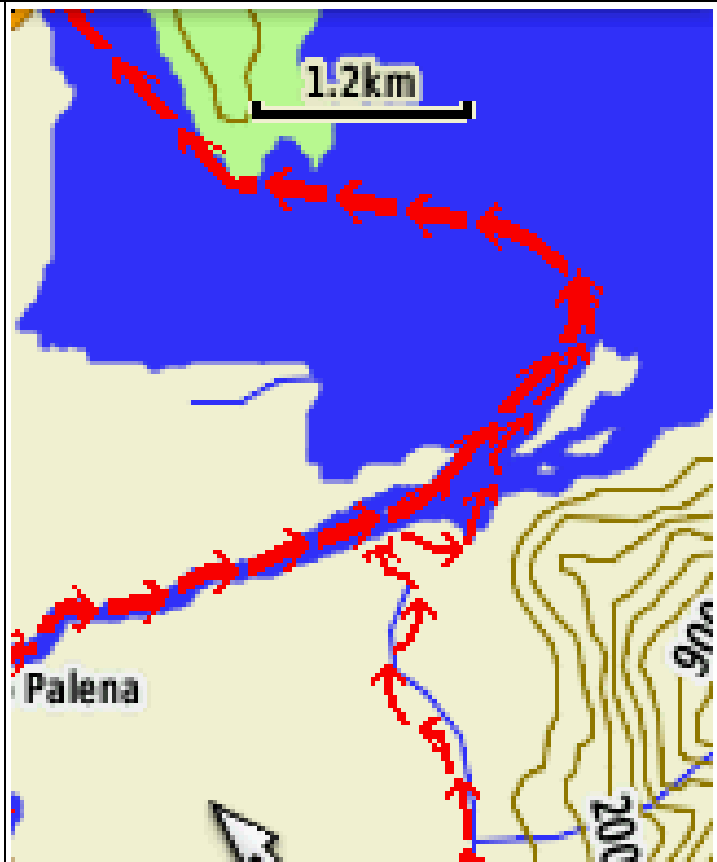
Note: Ferry and boat transfer routes are light blue. All land routes are black.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 489: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Packrafting routes on water are blue. One-way and two-way water routes are not differentiated in the Google Earth display.

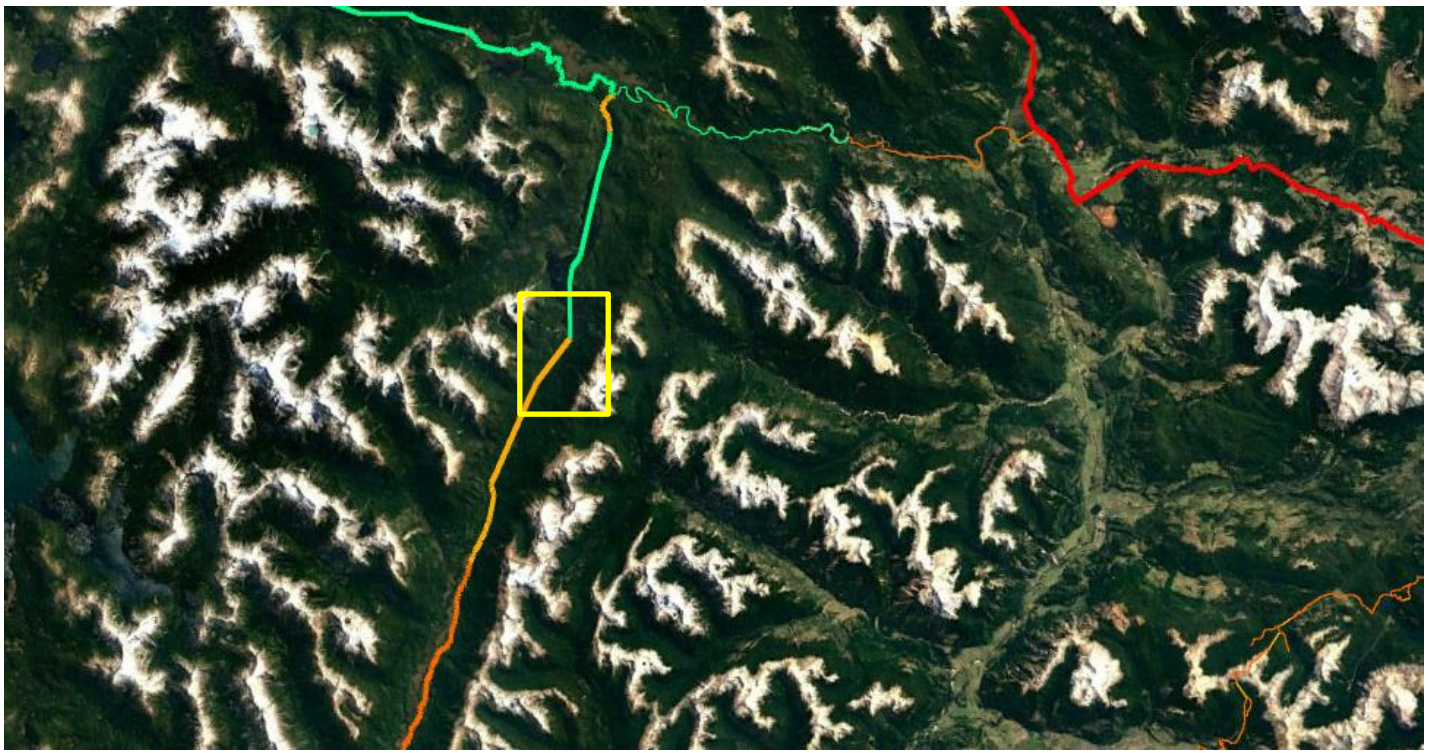


Picture 490: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Packrafting routes on water are red. One-Way routes are displayed as arrowed lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS				
Exploration Routes		**Google Earth**	**GPS Hiking Maps**	**GPS Packrafting Maps**
EXP-RR	Exploration Regular Route	**Thick Lines**	**Thick Lines**	**Thick Lines**
EXP-RH	Exploration Regular Hiking Route			Fine Lines
EXP-RP	Exploration Regular Packrafting Route		*Not displayed*	**Thick Lines**
EXP-OH	Exploration Optional Hiking Route	Fine Lines	Fine Lines	Fine Lines
EXP-OP	Exploration Optional Packrafting Route		*Not displayed*	
Track Terrains		**Google Earth**	**GPS Hiking Map**	**GPS Packrafting Map**
BB	Bush Bashing Routes	Exploration Land Routes: Orange Lines (Validated and Approximate) or Light Orange (Investigation) Same display of Packrafting and Hiking Exploration Routes on Land.	Exploration Routes on Land: Violet Lines Note that packrafting routes are only displayed on the packrafting maps.	
CC	Cross Country Route			
TL	Horse or Hiking Trail			
MR	Minor and Two-Track Roads			
PR	Primary and Paved Roads			
FY	Ferry and Boat Transfer Routes	White Lines	Light Blue Lines	
RI	River Packrafting	Green Lines	*not displayed*	Packrafting Exploration Routes on Water: Light Violet (Magenta, Pink)
LK	Lake Packrafting			
FJ	Fjord Packrafting			
Track Reliability and Direction		**Google Earth**	**GPS Hiking Map**	**GPS Packrafting Map**
V	Validated Land Route	Orange Lines	Solid Lines	
A	Approximate Land Route		Dotted Lines	
I	Investigation Land Route	Light Orange Lines	Dashed Lines	
2	Two-Way Water Route	White Lines (FY) or Green Lines (RI, LK, FJ)	Dotted Lines	
1	One-Way Water Route		Arrowed Lines	

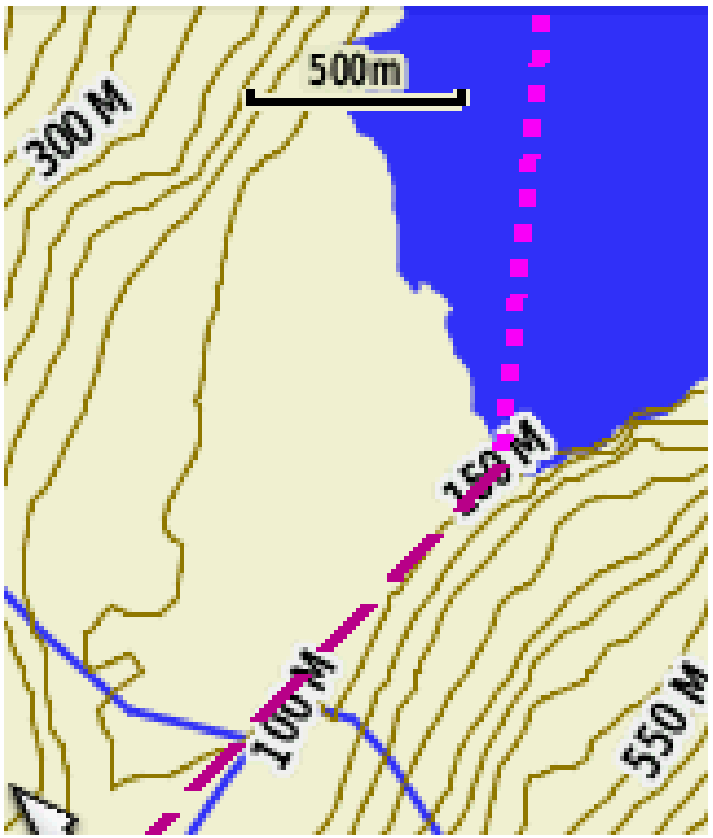
Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 491: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Exploration routes are orange (verified and approximate), light orange (investigation) and green (one-way and two-way packrafting on water) by adding yellow to the “standard colors”.

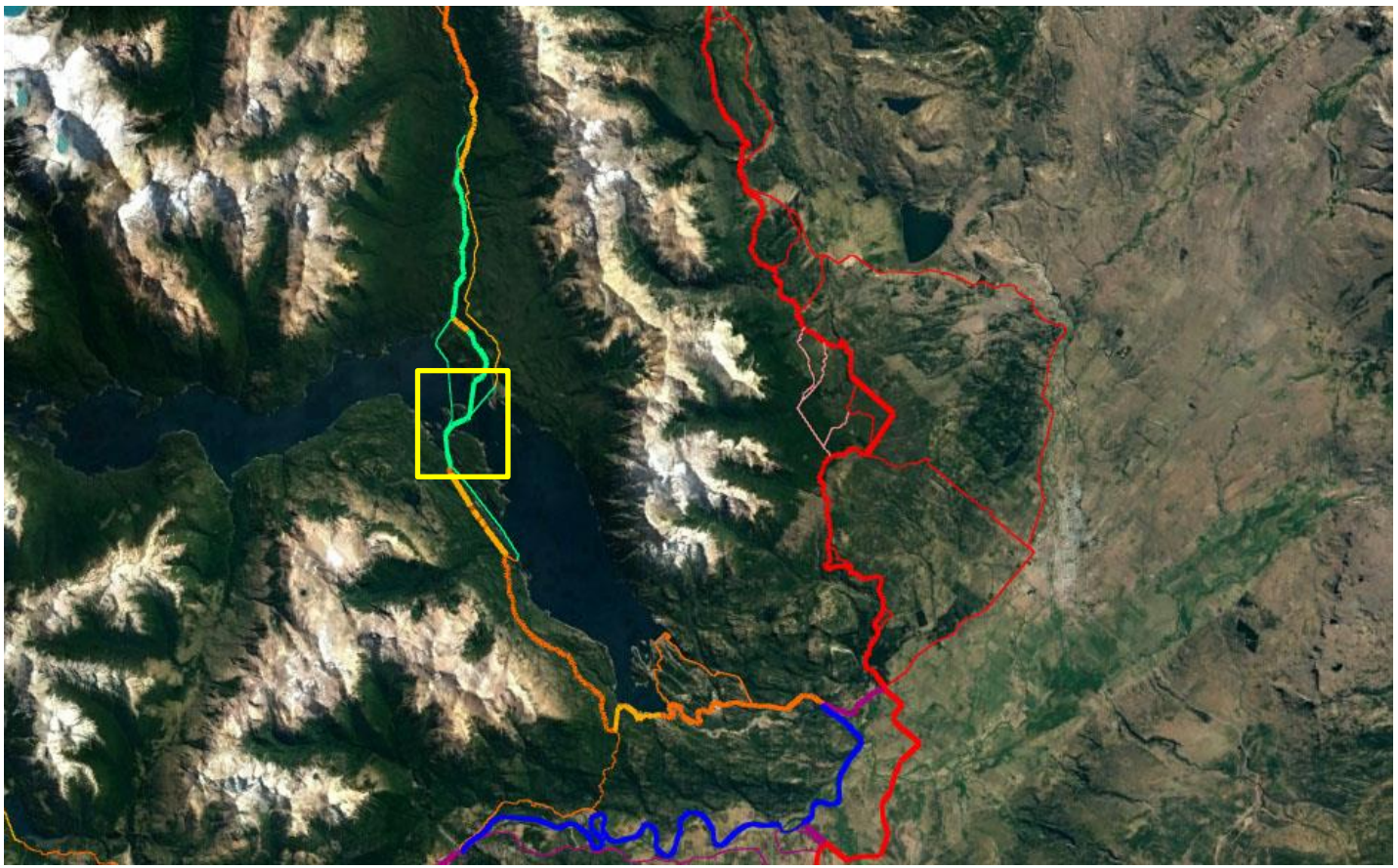
Exploration routes on land that are verified or approximate: Orange (Red + Yellow = Orange)
Exploration routes on land that are to be investigated: Light Orange (Rose + Yellow = Light Orange)
Exploration packrafting routes on water: Green (Blue + Yellow = Green)



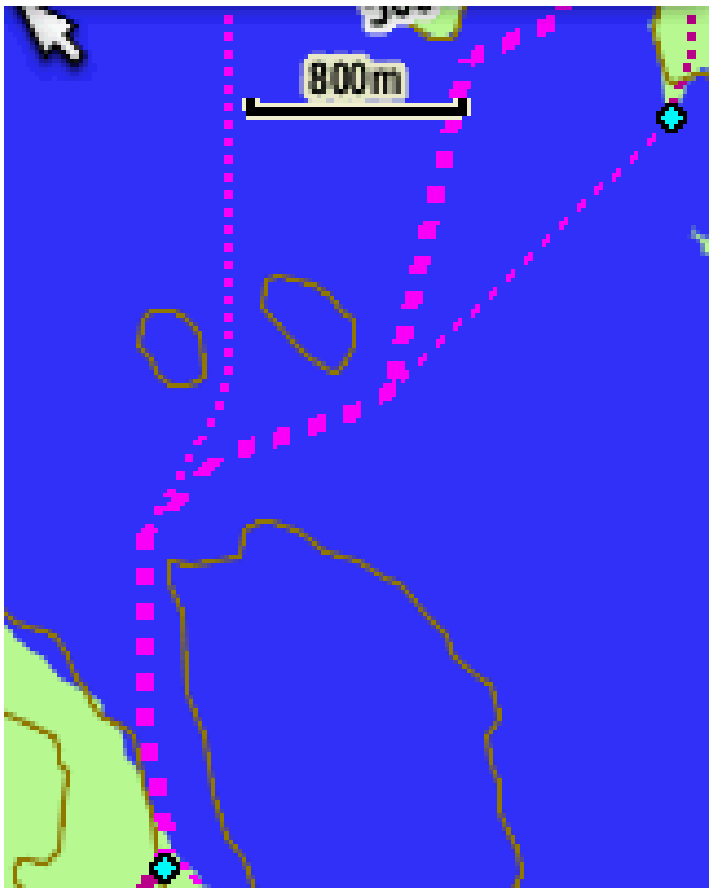
Picture 492: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Exploration routes on land are violet. Exploration packrafting routes on water are light violet (magenta or pink).

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS

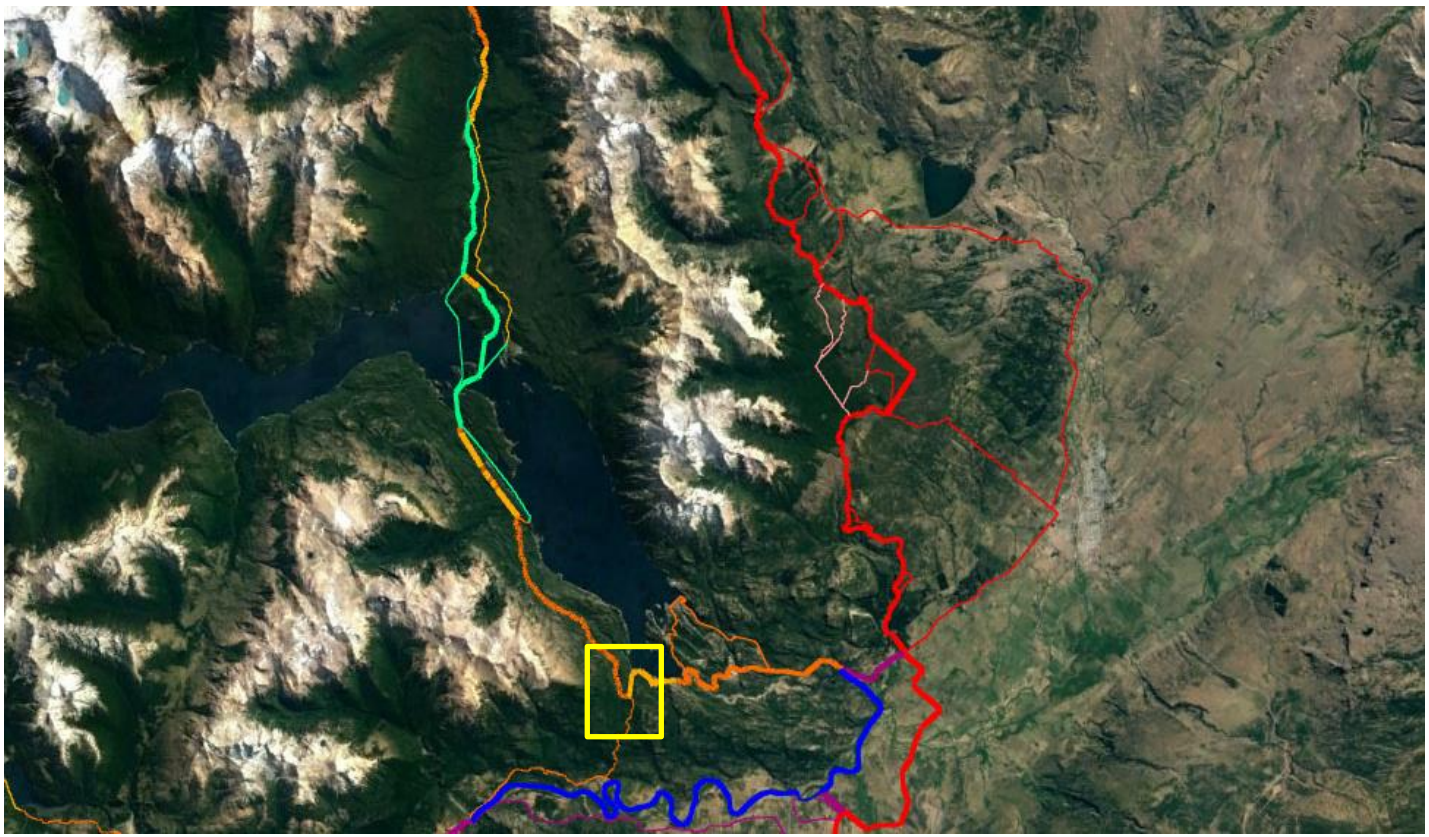


Picture 493: Google Earth Screen Shoot
Note: Other features are equivalent (regular route is thicker, optional route is thinner).



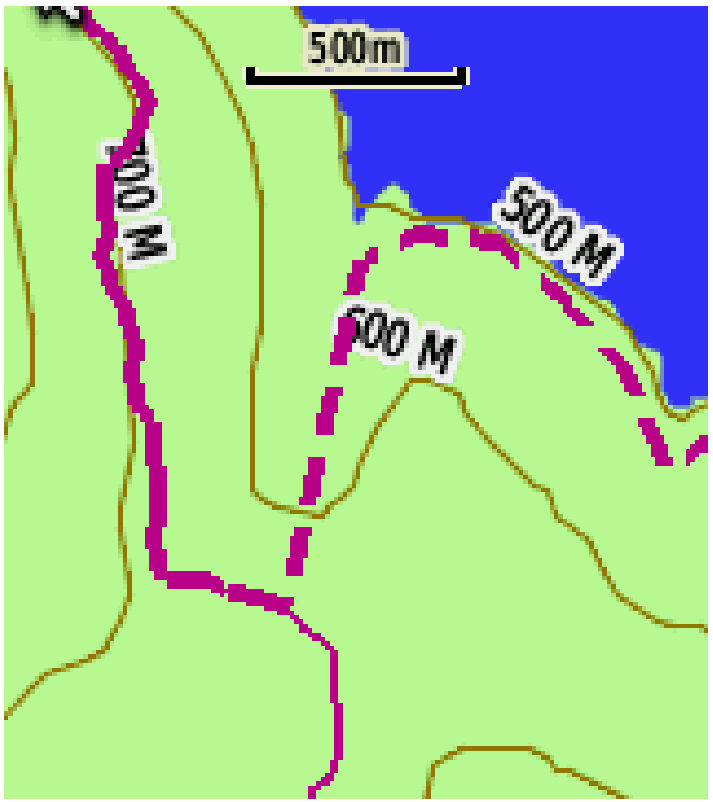
Picture 494: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot
Note: Other features are equivalent.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 495: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Exploration routes on land that are verified or approximate are orange. Exploration routes on land that remain to be investigated are light orange.



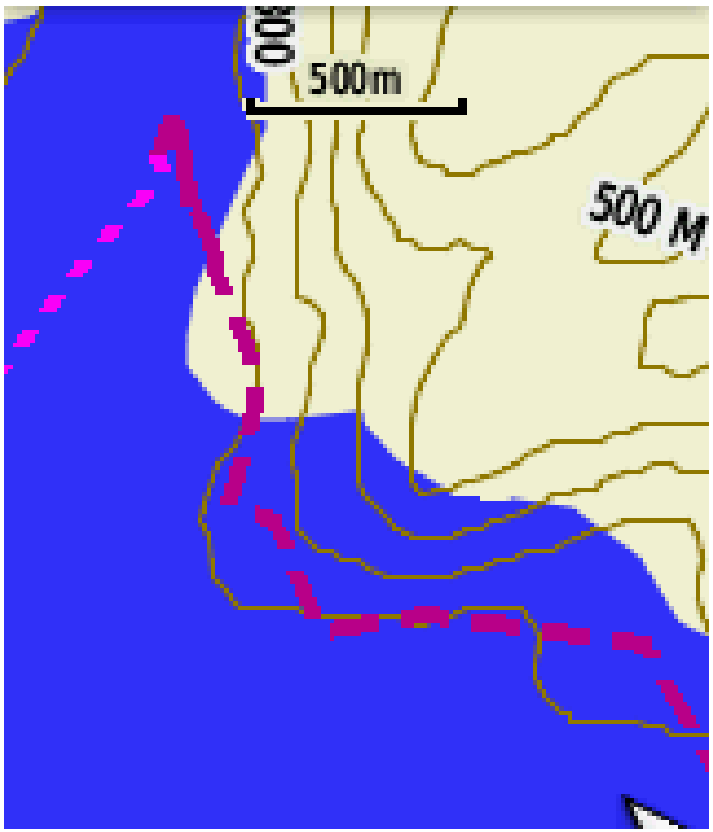
Picture 496: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Other features are equivalent i.e. verified routes are solid lines and investigation routes are dashed lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 497: Google Earth Screen Shoot
Note: Satellite images are much more precise than the Garmin TOPO (topographic) maps.



Picture 498: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot
Note: Error in Garmin TOPO map (land/water).

Table 169: Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS

3.3.6 Track File Display and Processing Software

3.3.6.1 Google Earth Pro (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.6.2 Basecamp (To be issued)

To be issued.

3.3.6.3 TYPViewer (To be issued)

Preparation Step 1: Create Type Files

To be issued.

3.3.6.4 IMGfromGPX (To be issued)

Preparation Step 2: Move TYP Files to folder “C:\Program Files (x86)\IMGfromGPX\Resources\en”

Note: After this step the TYP Files can be selected when creating IMG files

Step 1: Create IMG files (all will be named gmapsupp.img)

To be issued.

3.3.6.5 GMapTool (To be issued)

Step 2: Merge IMG files (gmapsupp.img) into maps

To be issued.

3.3.6.6 Special Purpose Software GPT.EXE by David Brophy

The special purpose software GPT.EXE was written by David Brophy in Python and can be downloaded from Github https://github.com/dave/gpt/releases.

This software performs the following action with the “GPT Master.kmz” file:

- Multiple consistency checks to verify if the master file has the required structure and syntax.
- Set the elevation of all tracks and waypoints.
- Recalculate the track names.
- Scraping the Wikiexplora section articles.
- Transform the master file into other file formats and structures to facilitate the use of track files with a smartphone.
- Create a new updated “GPT Master.kmz” file that serves as new input file for further updates.

The software must be executed from a Command Prompt window with the “GPT Master.kmz” file in the same folder as the GPT.EXE file.

Stored in the “GPT Master.kmz” file are hidden fields that remember the original name of each track. They are visible when opening the master file as a XML or TXT file. In the KML code it's called the "legacy" name. There's an optional command line flag in the GPT.EXE software. When runing "gpt.exe -renames" then two actions are performed:

- Outputs a file called "renames.txt" with a line for each segment that was renamed.
- Updates the "legacy" fields in the output master file to be the current names.

When running "gpt.exe -renames" after many updates a massive "renames.txt" file is created listing all renamed items with the old and new name. If you then use that master output file as the input file again and run "gpt.exe -renames" again then the renames.txt file will be empty because there it only shows renames segments since the last time "-renames" was used.

So basically, you can run the tool lots of times without "-renames" and the changes will build up. When you come to do the rename batch job you can add "-renames" and all the changes will be outputted into one file, and the master file will be reset.



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<kml xmlns="http://www.opengis.net/kml/2.2" xmlns:gx="http://www.google.com/kml/ext/2.2" xmlns:kml=
http://www.opengis.net/kml/2.2" xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
<Document>
    <name>KmlFile</name>
    <Style id="thin-red">
        <LineStyle>
            <color>ff0000ff</color>
        </LineStyle>
    </Style>
    <Placemark legacy="OH-PR-V@01-01B-#001">
        <name>OH-PR-V {01-01B} [0.0+4.9]</name>
        <open>1</open>
        <styleUrl>#thin-red</styleUrl>
        <LineString>
            <tessellate>1</tessellate>
            <coordinates>
                -70.53257000000001,-33.67202,722 -70.58502,-33.66921,673
            </coordinates>
        </LineString>
    </Placemark>
</Document>
</kml>
```

3.4 Wikiexplora Editor Advice

3.4.1 Wikiexplora Articles versa Facebook Posts

Contributing to a Wikiexplora article is more lasting than issuing only a Facebook post for the following reasons:

- One wiki article to each section collects useful contributions over multiple seasons in a structured manner. Hikers can easily review the feedbacks and comments to a specific section while preparing for this section. In a Facebook group useful posts are quickly covered under layers of newer posts. Especially posts from previous seasons are easily overlooked.

- A wiki permits each user to complete and correct previously published content. With such a collaboration the section description can grow and mature over time. A Facebook post can only be edited by the issuer and not by other readers. This makes Facebook a stream of personal opinions and individual statements that do not merge into a consolidated description.

- Facebook is not charity but a company that generates immense profits by exploiting personal information. I perfectly understand each person that dislikes fueling this commercial enterprise with his personal information. Because I have similar concerns, I minimize the use and dependence on Facebook.

To be issued.

3.5 Supplementary Information

3.5.1 Alternative Hiking Areas in Patagonia

The following list contains my suggestion of more established hiking areas in Patagonia.

- **Villarica Traverse (GPT16)**
  The popular 5-day hike near Pucon from the Ski Center Villarica to Puesco traverses the volcanic terrain of the volcano Villarica and volcano Quetrupillan. This is one of the established trails that is frequently hiked by foreign visitors. See the English trail description on Wikiexplora for more information 🌎.

- **Puyehue Ascent (GPT19)**
  The ascent of this volcano from Anticura starting at the international road Ruta 215 from Osorno to Bariloche is an established summit route that is taken by many hikers each year. Return on the same path! DO NOT attempt a traverse without a GPS, precise tracks, good weather and sufficient reserves. If you do not find the trail head on the other side of the plateau you will get stuck in an extremely dense forest. In this area people went missing and were never found again. Read the Spanish trail description on Wikiexplora to learn more about this option 🌎.

- **Cochamó (GPT22)**
  This is a relatively young hiking area that has seen a rapidly growing popularity in recent years. Most people walk from the town of Cochamó in one day to the camp site near La Junta and make various day trips from this location. From La Junta most hikers return on the same route to Cochamó. See the Spanish trail description on Wikiexplora for more information 🌎.

- **Cerro Castillo (GPT32)**
  The traverse from Las Horquetas to Villa Cerro Castillo is one of the classics trails in central Patagonia and suitably located on the way to Southern Patagonia. The start and the finish are on the Carretera Austral. Here you can experience a fantastic blend of skyscraper mountains, glaciers and glacier lake. You should read the English Wikiexplora article if considering this hike 🌎.

- **El Chaltén (GPT39)** (Monte Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre)
  This is a small but one of the most visited hiking areas in Patagonia. Hikers either camp in one of the official camp ground or make day trips from the town of El Chaltén to the very popular lookouts to Monte Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre. Expect lots of hikers and stunning views. The Spanish trail description on Wikiexplora provides more information 🌎.

- **Torres del Paine (GPT45)**
  This is for good reasons the most popular hiking area in Patagonia. The number of visors has risen to a level that restrictions are now in place. You need to make reservations months in advance for specific dates especially if you plan to visit this area between December and February. Check out the English Wikiexplora description to learn more about this hiking area 🌎.

Another excellent option to explore parts of the GPT in a more guided manner is a horse-riding tour. This gives you an excellent insight into the *arriero* culture. I recommend you the horse riding guides that introduced us to the fascinating Maule region. We made four extended horse riding tours with Danilo and Llito and the GPT would not exist in the current form without them. You can get in contract with Danilo Contreras on: www.chile-horseriding.com 🌎.



Picture 499: GPT06: Horse riding next to Descabezado Grande. Image: Jan Dudeck

Another village where you can arrange stunning horse-riding tours is Vilches Alto. You can easily reach this village by bus from Talca. Vilches Alto is located about 30 km west of the volcano Descabezado Grande. Several years ago we did an impressive 6 day tour which was for us an essential eyeopener to pay more attention to the region north of Patagonia.

Many of the trails we took on horseback are now integral parts of sections GPT06 and GPT07.

There are several other locations in the vicinity of the GPT where horse riding tours can be done. You may pre-arrange horse riding tours either with an international travel agency or search locally once in the country. If arranging your tour with an international travel agency than you pay a substantial premium but you have a more predictable travel experience based on a standard offer. With limited time and sufficient funds this is normally a good choice. Google will guide you to several international travel agencies and local companies with multiple horse riding offers. We personally know the team of Estanica el Encanto and there are many more.



Picture 500: GPT06: Horse riding next to Descabezado Grande. Image: Jan Dudeck

With sufficient time and some more appetite for adventure you may try to organize a horse riding tour locally. This requires good Spanish knowledge and good judgment to discuss in detail what can be done and what you wish to do. The advantage of arranging a tour locally is that you can agree on the timing and routing. But be careful; some guides that offers a *cabalgata* (horse riding tours) may promise more than they are prepared to execute just to secure a paying customer.

Also, if you plan to hike on the GPT and you look for a variation to the hiking routine or if you simply love horse riding than consider combining your hike on the GPT with a horse-riding trip.



Picture 501: GPT07: Horse riding with Danilo and Jito at the dormant Supervolcano Laguna del Maule (the founder and the horse riding guide of www.chile-horseriding.com 🌍). They opened our eyes for the fascinating *arriero* culture and the Maule region (section GPT07). Image: Jan Dudeck

3.5.2 Tourist Permit Extension “Visa-Renewal-Trips”

The easiest way to extend or renew your tourist permit is travelling between Chile and Argentina before completing your 90 days and returning a few days later. On re-entry you will normally be granted another 90-day tourist permit[97] even if you remained only one or two days on the other side of the border. Such a “visa trip” may be combined with a resupply stop in a town on the other side of the border[98]. Reasonable short distances or regular public transportation facilitate such a cross-border-trip in the following locations:

- **Paso Icalma**: At the southern terminus of section GPT13 you may walk or hitch-hike the 15 km from Icalma in Chile to Villa Pehuenia in Argentina. This is the most northern suitable border crossing for a “visa-renewal-trip” on the GPT.
- **Paso Mauil Malal**: At the southern terminus of section GPT15 you may take a bus from Pucon or Curarrehue in Chile to Junin de Los Andes or San Martin de Los Andes in Argentina.
- **Paso Huahum**: On GPT18 you may hitch-hike from Pirihueco on the eastern end of Lago Pirihueco to San Martin de los Andes in Argentina.
- **Paso Cardenal Antonio Samoré**: At the southern terminus of section GPT19 you may take a bus between Osorno in Chile and San Carlos de Bariloche in Argentina.

[97] This is a distinct difference to Europe where a visa-free access to the Schengen states permits only 90 days within any 180-day period.
[98] When doing a resupply trip over the border consider that import restrictions for fresh food. See chapter 1.8.18 What to Bring and What to Leave on page 110.

- **Paso Perez Rozales** and **Paso Vuriloche**: On section GPT21 you may take the optional route around Monte Tronador by crossing from Peulla in Chile to Lago Frias in Argentina, hike southbound to Pampa Linda in Argentina and return to Chile over Paso Vuriloche.

- **Paso Puelo**: Towards the southern end of section GPT22 you will cross at Paso Puelo between Chile and Argentina if following the regular route.

- **Paso Rio Encuento**: At the southern terminus of section GPT26 you will cross the border between Argentina and Chile when hiking or hitch-hiking from Carrenleufú to Palena.

- **Paso Jeinemeni**: At the start of section GPT35 you may walk or hitch-hike from Chile Chico to Los Antiguos in Argentina.

- **Paso Roballos** and **Paso Río Meyer**: The very remote exploration options of GPT35 and GPT36H cross on Paso Roballos into Argentina and return on Paso Rio Meyer into Chile. This route is very challenging and going for it should not be motivated by getting a tourist permit extension.

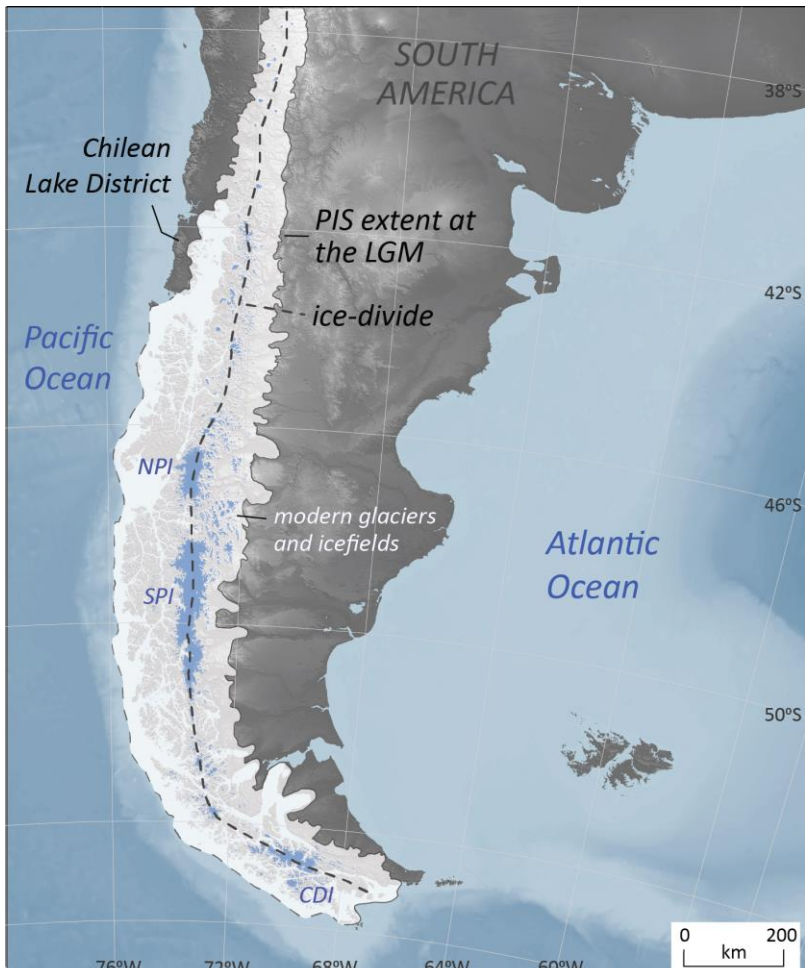
- **Paso Rio Mosco**: At the end of section GPT36 hikers can walk in less than one hour from Villa O’Higgins to the Argentine border control post “Cocovi” and return on foot to Villa O’Higgins on the same day. This is a suitable option for hikers that need to renew their 90-day tourist visa and don’t intent to cross Lago O’Higgins to walk to El Chalten in Argentina (section GPT39). Note that the short walk to “Cocovi” requires the crossing of Rio Mosco. The bridge over this river was destroyed in 2019 and not rebuild by January 2020. Fording this river might not be feasible during snowmelt and after heavy rain.

- **Candelario Mansilla**: Hikers that follow the Regular Route of GPT38 will cross between Chile and Argentina and get a new 90-day tourist visa on entry.

3.5.3 Formation of the Topography of Greater Patagonia

The topography of the southern Andes was shaped by an immense ice shield during past glacial periods. The map to the right shows the Patagonian Ice Sheet at the Last Glacial Maximum around 21,000 years ago in white. The modern Northern Patagonian Icefield (NPI), Southern Patagonian Icefield (SPI), and Cordillera Darwin Icefield (CDI), and other smaller mountain glaciers, are shown in light blue for comparison.

See www.antarcticglaciers.org for more information.



Picture 502: Expansion of ice shield at last glacial maximum. Image: www.antarcticglaciers.org

3.5.4 Remark to the Limits of Patagonia

There is no doubt that Patagonia is part of the Southern Cone but opinions deviate where it exactly starts and ends. The northern limit of Patagonia on the Chilean side can be seen as south as the Estuarió de Reloncaví (latitude 41° 30’ South) or as north as the river Río Biobío (about latitude 37° South if taking the mouth at Concepcion as reference). That’s a difference of about 500 km. On the Argentine side the understanding of the limits can be equally different. Some take the Río Negro with the tributary Río Limay as the northern limit (about latitude 39° South) others the Río Barrancas and the Río Colorado (Latitude 36° South). Also the southern limit is fuzzy. Some consider Tierra del Fuego as part of Patagonia others not.

If you try to align Patagonia with the current administrative divisions of Chile and Argentina than the following provinces (Argentina) and regions (Chile) are typically considered to be Patagonia:

In Argentina:

- Neuquén
- Río Negro
- Chubut
- Santa Cruz
- Tierra del Fuego

In Chile:

- XIV. Region (Región de los Ríos with the provinces Valdivia and Ranco)
- X. Region (Región de los Lagos with the provinces Chiloé, Llanquihue, Osorno and Palena)
- XI. Region (Región de Aysén del General Carlos Ibáñez del Campo with the provinces Aisén, Capitán Prat, Coihaique and General Carrera)
- XII. Region (Región de Magallanes y de la Antártica Chilena with the provinces Magallanes, Tierra del Fuego, Última Esperanza and Antártica Chilena)

The growing international fame of Patagonian contributes to the “extension” of this region. Regions that were not considered part of Patagonia a century ago now advertise themselves as “gateway to Patagonia”.

For more information to this subject read the Spanish Wikipedia article to Patagonia.

3.5.5 Packrafting Considerations (To be issued)

3.5.5.1 Learning Packrafting

To be issued.

3.5.5.2 Packrafting on Rivers

To be issued.

3.5.5.3 Packrafting on Lakes

To be issued.

3.5.5.4 Packrafting on Fjords

To be issued.

3.6 Creation and History of the GPT (To be updated)

To be issued.

3.6.1 Interview by Michael Deckebach in 2018

Michael: First, could you tell us a bit about yourself and your outdoors experience prior to the GPT?

Jan: I started when I was 15 with bicycle tours in Europe. I traveled from my home in Germany east to Czech Republic, west to France, south to Italy, and north to Norway. When I was 22 I did my first hiking tour. Badly overloaded with too much stuff, I hiked ten days through Scotland. When I was 27, I did my first trip to Patagonia and hiked the classic trails: Torres del Paine, el Chalten to Cerro Torre and Fitzroy, Puyehue and the Villarica Traverse. Since then I have regularly returned to the Andes to do more hikes and horse riding tours. In Chile I also met Meylin (now my wife and hiking partner) who had no outdoor experience at the time but dreamed of traveling her country by foot, bicycle, and horse.

Michael: How was the idea for the GPT born? Why did you decide to create it?

Jan: During our horse riding tours we were guided by locals into fascinating areas on excellent trails that did not show up on any existing map. When reviewing these trips on Google Earth, I noticed with surprise that many of these undocumented trails are visible on satellite images. I searched for more of these undocumented trails via satellite images, and Meylin and I then tried to venture into these areas. It worked out! In the spring of 2013 I wondered if these places we had been could be connected by one long continuous route. It was at first a rather hypothetical question, but when I had a roughly 1000 km long route laid out, I wanted

to go for it.

Michael: How did you map the GPT?

Jan: It all started with Google Earth. I first reviewed satellite pictures of approximately one dozen areas in Patagonia where I had been previously. This taught me how to interpret aerial images (i.e., how to distinguish a horse trail from a similar looking gully). With this expertise I researched other areas on Google Earth and found plenty of undocumented trails. Then I searched the internet for additional information which I found mainly on Wikiexplora and Wikiloc. By putting all this together I created an approximately 1300 km long route with an estimated 85% to 90% being reasonably reliable and 10% to 15% requiring further investigation on the ground.

Michael: What has most surprised you or been unexpected about developing the GPT?

Jan: Coming from Europe, I was used to having hiking maps available for every square meter of land, with the implicit understanding that anything not on these maps does not exist. My biggest surprise was the large number of undocumented trails in the Andes. Most valleys have a trail even though the maps are blank.

Michael: What has been the hardest part about creating the GPT?

Jan: The creation of the GPT is still ongoing and what challenges me most has changed over time.

The first challenge was finding the most attractive route while minimizing road kilometers. I don't like walking on gravel roads. Speed and "making" many kilometers were never on my priority list, but appreciating natural beauty is.

After I recorded the initial route by GPS I faced the second challenge: publishing it. First I had to decide if publishing it at all was worthwhile. Then, when I opted to publish the GPT, I had to figure out where and how to publish this route in order to promote a sustainable use. My key objective with publishing the GPT is preserving these trails and maintaining the generally positive relationship between the locals that live along the trail and hiking guests.

Since publishing I have faced a third challenge: preventing abuse. Unfortunately, I now deal with plagiarizers that want to commercially exploit the GPT without caring whether a commercial use might be appropriate or not. Also, arrogant ego-promoters and celebrity-seekers have been an occasional annoyance that shrink every mountain and every host to a selfie background. However, this trail seems to protect itself; the GPT humiliates the proud and rewards the humble.

Michael: Any regrets about publicizing your work? When do you think an adventurer should or should not share their tracks?

Jan: These are two questions with different answers. Do I regret publishing the GPT? No. So far I still believe that that this publication does more good than harm but I can't be certain what the long term effects will be. When we hike and paddle the GPT we hardly see young settlers and young arrieros (Chilean for cowboy) along the trail. The children of the older generation who live beside the trails do not follow the traditional way of life, opting instead to move (understandably) into the towns and cities where life is less burdensome. If these trails do not see continued use then a good part of the GPT will be abandoned and overgrown in

one or two decades. Outside visitors that value the land as it is today provide some protection against this. It is easier to exploit and destroy land when it is “off the public’s radar,” so bringing the public into the “black spots” contributes to the protection of these areas. That said, ask me again in 20 years to answer this same question and I’ll have more wisdom.

To your second question: an adventurer should always think about the likely and the possible effects for the land and the residents before sharing tracks. Fame and glory should be excluded from this decision, particularly if the track traverses non-public terrain or sensitive areas. One useful mental exercise is to think about publishing the track anonymously—I find this eliminates inappropriate motives from tainting my decision-making.

Michael: Misconceptions - it seems like the GPT has a lot of them. Why do you think that is?

Jan: The biggest misconception is probably that the GPT is a trail. When starting publishing the GPT I had been hiking and horse riding for 10 years exclusively in the Andes. So I somehow lost the outside view of what a trail is. For me it became natural that trails are not marked, that I’m just the guest on the land of someone else, that I have to choose between multiple route options, and that the trails can be overgrown and difficult to follow. I had to be reminded by some frustrated (performance-)hikers that the GPT differs from many other long trails.

Michael: What is your long-term goal or vision for the GPT?

Jan: My vision is a vast network of routes that contributes to the protection of the land and where respectful hikers and packrafters are welcome by the local arrieros, the indigenous Pehuenche, and the settlers on the route. I hope that these locals on the trail

and the passing hikers and packrafters experience mutual benefits with as little as possible annoyance. My goal is not to create a new AT, PCT or CDT that is taken by some visitors as a proving ground or public stage where the “I” is in the center. I have failed if hikers routinely use the phrase “I make the GPT.”

I will achieve my goal if these trails continue to exist in 20 years and when arrieros, indigenous Pehuence, and settlers say with pride that they live on a trail that is regularly hiked and paddled by Chileans and foreign guests.

Michael: How can people get involved or help out?

Jan: The GPT is an informal trail networks that relies on the contributions of hiking community. Providing a full GPS record of your hike and feedback for each section hiked is essential to keep the track files updated. And if you enjoy reviewing and editing text you can always help develop and update the steadily growing GPT documentation.

Michael: Anything else you’d like to say to the US hiking community?

Jan: Don’t take anything for granted that you learned and became accustomed to in North America. Be open to surprises by a route network that challenges your concept of hiking and immerses you in fascinating cultures. Learn Spanish if you don’t speak it. And have the courage to be a humble guest.

3.6.2 Interview by Franz Schubert in 2021

Introducción: Que es el GPT / Introduction: What is the GPT

The Greater Patagonian Trail (GPT) is a long-distance route network in the southern Andes that spans from the outskirts of Santiago to the southern tip of South America. It facilitates exploring the diversity of Patagonia and the adjacent regions. Six words pinpoint the rather unique differences to established long-distance trails: Informal, Guest, Immersion, Network, Packraft, Collaboration

It's **informal** because the GPT is not an official trail. The GPT is basically a documentation of existing routes that are mostly used by local residents for their purposes. This means, there is no public oversight, virtually no signage, and no regular trail maintenance but lots of surprises. And by walking these mostly neglected routes hikers **immerse** into the overlooked areas between the few overrun tourist hotspots of Patagonia.

On good parts of the GPT hikers are just unexpected **guest** and have no right-of-way but trespass over private properties. Along these routes hiking guests will inevitably meet the herdsman (*arrieros*), the indigenous people (*Pehuenche*) and the settlers (*colonos, pobladores*) so be at least a respectful and friendly trespasser. If these residents are approached with interest, then doors will open and a journey on the GPT becomes a cultural **immersion**.

The GPT is not a single route that connects a start with a finish point but a vast **network** of interconnected routes. This means every hiker must make many choices while travelling the GPT; or better said: every hiker can assemble a unique personally route. The GPT currently consists of more than 25'000 km of routes that spans an area of 2'250 km from Santiago to Tierra del Fuego.

You may **packraft** on the GPT. The route network contains many optional water routes that are suitable for light-weight inflatable boats (packrafts). These routes on rivers, lakes and fjords add another dimension to the GPT for those, that opt for this form of travel.

The GPT is a **collaborative** project. The informal nature of the GPT makes it essential that all hikers and packrafters contribute to the GPT by documenting their journey and sharing their experience and updates. Currently, prospective hikers cannot opt out and choose to only utilize the GPT documentation without becoming a co-editor.

Pequeña biografía de Jan Dudeck / **Short biography of Jan Dudeck**

I was born in 1975 and already as a young child I sensed a profound desire to travel the world. The Atlas was my first favourite book. But while growing up in East German the cold war and the iron curtain made free travel an unreal and unaccomplishable dream. This suddenly changed in 1989 with the surprising fall of the Berlin wall. In the following years I used my summer school vacations to cycled through good parts of Europe and while later studying Mechanical Engineering in Germany I did my first multi-day hikes.

After obtaining my academic degree I intentionally opted for a job that makes me travel. In 1999 I moved to Switzerland to work as a field engineer for a company that designs, builds and maintains power stations all around the world. So far, I have worked on all continents except Antarctica.

While working as a field engineer, I specialized in inspecting gas turbines and forensic engineering and I get frequently deployed

to failure investigations. This fostered my researching attitude and analytical skills. As part of my job, I also evaluate large amounts of images and other pieces of evidence and I issue detailed reports.

All these skills and attitudes became cornerstones for investigating and publishing the GPT. To find and draft potential routes I tediously analyse satellite imagery. I also systemically search the internet for further glues and while on the ground I speak to the residents along the trails to gather more information about nearby routes and their condition. While walking I carefully inspect the terrain for signs of trails and how they are used and maintained. And the Hikers' Manual is my most comprehensive inspection report.

Jan, cuéntanos como llegaste a Chile y que te motivo a caminar como loco a largo del país? / Jan, tell us how you got to Chile and what drove you to hike the length of this country.

I first came to Chile in 2001 to work in a power station in Tocopilla. In 2002 I started traveling the Andes in my vacations that I connected at this time with work assignments to Chile and Argentina. Like most other first-time-visitors to Patagonia I believed I must go as far as possible south to see the best. So, I started with the few internationally known hiking areas like Torres del Paine In Chile and the Fitzroy area in Argentina.

In 2007 I met my now wife Meylin from Santiago de Chile and since 2008 I'm a regular guest in Chile and Argentina and we spend approx. 3 month per year in the Andes. From 2008 to 2012 we travelled by car the entire length of Chile and Argentina from the desert Atacama in the north to Tierra del Fuego in the south. The car served us to access many remote areas for shorter hikes, bicycle tours and horseback riding trips.

In these 10 year from 2002 to 2012 we discovered the Andes more intimately and more out of curiosity I started scanning the Google Earth satellite images wondering if the hidden mountain trails can be connected into one long hike. And indeed, it seemed feasible. After several months of detailed planning, we started our first long-distance hike in November 2013 and after 80 days of walking and paddling we had a 1’500 km long confirmed route.

In 2014 I started publishing the just confirmed route on Wikiexplora and with this, the GPT was born. In the following years we returned to extend the route network and our list of pending investigations does not get shorter ever since.

¿Tienes pareja de Chile, ella comparte tu pasión? / You have a Chilean partner; does she shares your passion?

Yes, Meylin always wished to travel and hike the Andes but she rarely had the opportunity to do it. When I asked, if she is able to carry her own backpack for more than 100 km she accepted the challenge. We now have travelled an estimated 10’000 km propelled with mussel-power only (hiking, paddling, cycling, and riding horses).

¿Hoy en diez años, como se cambiará el GPT? / How do you see the GPT in the coming 10 years?

I’m not a prophet so I do not want to make predictions, but I can share my vision.

I hope that in 10 years the GPT still drives as an untamable informal community project but that parts of the GPT became attractive public hiking trails that are hiked by Chileans and Argentines that become well-known under different local names.

In example the regions Maule, Ñuble, and Bío-Bío are full of attractive interconnected horse trails that are used by local herdsman

(*arrieros*) and the indigenous people (*Pehuenche*). On many of these routes the right-of-way is not disputed and not much investment is needed to create a new public hiking region that is at least 10 times larger than Torres del Paine and much closer to the main population centres of Chile. It requires clarifying and formalize the right-of-way, building a few bridges over rivers that might become impassable during snowmelt and heavy rain, installing signposts and trail markers, and publishing these trails on paper maps and digital maps. The trails are already there.

The biggest challenge is probably getting the consent of the larger estate owners (*fundos*) along these routes. The concept of the right-to-roam is unestablished in most parts of Chile and Argentina. While being colonies of Spain and young independent states oligarchic power structures shaped the ownership culture. It's taken for granted that a landlord (*patrón*) rules over his property and the labourers (*peones*) on it like a king. And the legal framework in Chile and Argentina protects this culture. In contrast, more egalitarian societies and cultures that incorporate a sustainable use of common goods have a long tradition of the right-to-roam. This means, even if someone owns a large plot of land all others have the right walk over it and pitch a tent at night. Archiving such a cultural change in Chile and Argentina is a tough nut to crack.

El turismo tiene como toda la industria su impacto negativo al medio ambiente. ¿Se debe aún promover turismo de larga distancia? / Tourism has like other industries a negative impact on the environment. Should long-distance travel for tourism be promoted?

My answer to this question would have been different before 2018 when I became aware of my personal responsibilities in the current climate crisis. The threatening consequences of global warming forces us to re-evaluate and re-think every sector of our economy including tourism. And long-distance flights have enormous ecological footprints that are not compensated by being a

responsible “green” guest in a far distant country. Therefore, tourism that requires long-distance flights should not be promoted, while we have no sustainable and affordable technology to cover thousands of kilometres in hours.

But unmotorized long-distance travel that starts and ends near home is a totally different story. Mussel-propelled travel like hiking and cycling are sustainable and they temporary stop us from earning money that inevitably would be spend in part on resource-consuming products and services. Therefore, as more time we fill with sustainable activities as less harm we are for our planet.

When scrutinizing our current way of life, we often recognize with frustration which loved products and services are not ecological viable. But we can re-imagine our life from a different perspective: what enjoyable and sustainable activities we should do more to be less burden for the world we live in. And this list is long: read books, learn for the pleasure of knowing, meet with friends, listen and make music, handcraft, tinker and repair the things we really need. And people that love to travel far and long can hike and bike-pack starting somewhere near home. Long-distance hiking and bike-packing are relatively inexpensive and profoundly satisfying. And this form of travel teaches how little someone actually needs, because you cope for weeks and months with just the items that you are willing and able to carry. This shift towards sustainable non-gainful activities works only in an economy with fair salaries and flexible work arrangements so a few months of gainful employment can pay for a few months of unpaid leisure time.

With this in mind I decided to keep my work accessible, but I do not advertise the GPT outside of Chile and Argentina. And me and my wife are now preparing to settle down in Chile in the coming years.

La mayoría de la gente ven el Trekking antes de todo como deporte. Sin duda entrega mucho más beneficio a la sociedad. ¿Qué opinión tienes al respecto? / The majority sees trekking as a sport. But without doubt it has more benefits for the society. What do you think in this respect?

A part of my answer is already in my previous statement. But I want to highlight two more aspects.

I'm sure, most *arrieros* and settlers along these trails are happy to have some extra income by selling food and services to hikers. Marginal land that barely feeds a few flocks resilient goats may generate additional revenue with visitors. The transformation of the Alps in the last 100 years exemplifies such a development. The descendants of poor mountain farmers that barely made a living are now entrepreneurs that run restaurants and hotels. Livestock farming in the Alps is now a necessary ornament but certainly not the main source of income. But don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that a similar monetarization of tourism in the Andes like we see it today in the Alps. This is neither desirable nor feasible but opening the mountains for guests should not be seen as threat but as an opportunity.

Being an *arriero* is a dying occupation and the children of many settlers have left their parents to work in the cities. There are economic reasons for this retreat from the mountains into the cities, but a lack of appreciation is probably a contributing factor. Therefore, curious visitors that approach the residents along the trail with admiration help to preserve this way of life. The same applies to the indigenous *Pehuenche*. We met some that struggled with their native inheritance. It needs true respect to heal injured self-esteem and honest interest to value their heritage without being patronizing.

Países como Austria, Suiza o Estados Unidos tienen el Trekking bien desarrollados, pero no todo es oro que brilla. ¿Qué es lo que NO debemos copiar y aplicar en Chile en ningún caso? / Countries like Austria, Switzerland and the US have well-developed trekking culture but not everything that shines ain't always gonna be gold. What should not be copied and applied in Chile under no circumstances?

In the last two decades I hiked exclusively in the Andes so my first-hand experience of trekking in Europe and North America is limited. My perception of these hiking cultures is more based on consulting hikers from Europe and North America and recognizing what surprised and struck them on the GPT. In the following I mention two potential questionable developments without claiming that these are identifying for hiking in Europe and North America.

Commercialization is a double-edged sword. I wish that the GPT creates some extra income for the residents along the trails, but I also hope that not only paying guests are appreciated. Hiking should remain inexpensive for those that cannot effort to pay for expensive services and such hikers should feel equally welcome.

When I learned about the long-distance trails and the thru-hiking culture in the US I was puzzled by the competitive mindset of some hikers. Not completing a 3000 to 5000 km long trail in one season is seen by many as a failure and hikers proudly measured their achievements in miles per day to compare themselves with others. Such comparisons may be encouraging for some but toxic for many others. Interestingly, hikers with such a competitive mindset struggled on the GPT and aborted more frequent than other hikers. And they normally missed to engage with the residents along the trails because everything that slows down is removed like a needless burden. In this way they overlooked one on the treasures of the GPT in plain sight: the people that made and maintain these trails.

Existen senderos de larga distancia en muchos países del mundo, hablamos del Senderos Transalp en Europa, el Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) o el Appalachian Trail (AT) en Estados Unidos. Creaste tu propio sendero. ¿Quieres marcar una diferencia con un sentido diferente? / There are long distance trails in other parts of the world like the Transalp in Europe and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and Appalachian Trail (AT) in the USA. You made your own trail. Do you want to highlight a difference?

The GPT is less than a long-distance trail and more than a long-distance trail depending on someone's perspective.

First: The GPT does not consist of a single route that someone "must" walk and all hikers are burdened with analysing countless route options and making many choices.

Second: The lack of a centralized trail management means that parts of the GPT route network are poorly maintained or even impassable at times. So, hikers cannot rely on their plans and projections.

Both is toxic for athletic walkers that need to maintain a consistent rhythm to enjoy their self-imposed walking challenge. But exactly these two features make the GPT a mouth-watering buffet for hiking guests with a good appetite for adventure and surprise.

Another difference is the small number of hikers that are dispersed over this vast trail network. This means that hikers rarely meet their peers on the GPT. This might sound attractive at first, but many hikers don't realize the relevance of the trail community for their motivation. There is hardly ever someone to trail-talk; nobody who shares your passion and could provide affirmation. This

has driven some weathered thru-hikers quickly into frustration and off the trail. The GPT is dryland for people that need the admiration of others like water.

But the GPT provides fascinating opportunities for curious guests that are interested in their hosts and their live. We have spent many hours in *puestos* (makeshift shelter) with *arrieros* and set around the stove with settlers in their homesteads. We learned how they raise and herd their animals, we watched them make cheese and we gave occasionally hand to sacrifice a goat and roast it over the fire. When we packrafted a fjord and bad weather forced to baile out we spend a day and a night with an older couple in their tiny makeshift home and they explained us everything about how they farm mussels. Such encounters make a journey on the GPT more than a hike; it's a cultural immersion. You get to know people that deserve admiration for their resilience and hard work.

Chile es muy diferente a otros países, es más prístino, más salvaje, hay menos infraestructura, menos señalética al largo de los senderos y prácticamente no hay refugios. ¿A quien está destinado el GPT? / Chile is quite different compared to other countries; its more pristine, wilder, with less infrastructure, less trail signs and practically no huts. For whom the GPT is made?

Well, practically no route of the GPT was made for hikers. The trails and minor roads were made by and for the local residents to serve their purposes. Hikers are just unexpected guests. So, the appropriate question is: "Who will enjoy this weird conglomerate of routes?" and not for whom they were made.

Self-sufficient and curious adventurers will certainly feel more comfortable on these routes than athletic hikers that primarily seek

the challenge of a long walk. Such endurance walkers are better off on well-maintained public trails.

Good navigational skills and a proficient handling of GPS devises are paramount on GPT. There are practical no signposts to inform and direct hikers. Essential is also a healthy sense of outdoor safety. There is no rescue party with a helicopter on standby to recover the daredevil or misadventurer. The GPT also requires a good balance between resilience and prudence. Know your limits and back out before you reach them. And the unpredictable nature of the GPT forces hikers to adopt and replan; occasionally several times per day. Stubborn fighters that pursue their plan single-minded will get themselves in trouble quickly.

Guests on the GPT must also have the skills and desire to live for weeks under the sky with practically not infrastructure. If the weather turns nasty and you are near a *puesto* or settlers homestead get there and ask for shelter otherwise find a safe spot, pitch your tent and sit out the bad weather in your tent.

But the lack of man-made infrastructure in a mostly pristine wilderness exhibits a special kind of beauty that we can rarely experience in everyday life. It reminds us how this planet looked like before one mammal species outgrow its original habitat and started dominating its home planet with unforeseeable consequences.

Caminando en Chile tienes mucho tiempo - en la carpa, preparando las comidas, a lado de una fogata. Seguramente tienes una visión del GPT. ¿Lo compartes con nosotros? / Hiking long and far in Chile means lots of time in the tent, cooking food and sitting at a campfire. You certainly have a vision for the GPT. Do you want to share it?

I see the GPT route network like the roots of a young tree that was planted just a few years ago. The tree drives its soft roots in all

directions to collect water and nutrients and provide stability to a growing trunk. Some root branches will grow thicker while others remain weak or die off without hurting the tree itself.

It’s a unique benefit of an informal and collaborative trail project that it can probe routes into all directions without agreements and investments. A small number of hikers can investigate and document these routes, and based on this a root branch can grow thicker, remain weak or die off without hurting the project itself.

Therefore, I hope that the GPT keeps flourishing as an informal community project but that parts of the GPT transform into attractive public hiking areas that become well-known under different local names. And I wish that more Chileans and Argentines visit their mountains nearby with respect and caution, fall in love with their homeland and protect it passionately.

3.7 Distinct Contributors

This trail project relies on the contributions of all hikers and since season 2018/19 this is part of the Terms and Conditions. As a minimum all hikers that want to use the Trail Files must providing a written summary to all hiked sections on Wikiexplora and record their entire hike by GPS to share these records with the author of the GPT. This is the basic contribution expected from all hikers in return for using the Trail Files. Without this, the GPT documentation would quickly be outdated.

But many hikers went far beyond and contributed in sometimes unexpected ways. They:

- investigated unverified options and entire sections,
- they issued informative articles to the GPT and
- they worked with me on issuing and updating this Hikers' Manual and the Wikiexplora page.
- One prospective hiker developed a genius software to process the Track Files.
- And others, intentionally or unintentionally, became "midwifes" that assisted in the birth and early development of the GPT.

This chapter lists these distinct contributors in alphabetic order, records their outstanding contributions and provides links to their blogs and online publications. These documents are valuable resources for prospective hikers.

3.7.1 Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed

Bethany and Lauren were the first to hike the length of the GPT as part of a much bigger adventure: They traverse the length of the Americas by non-motorized means to connect stories of the land and its inhabitants. We got in touch before they started their endeavour in December 2015 on the southern tip of the continent. And while they walked northbound, I developed the trail southbound. This resulted in a very fertile exchange of ideas and routes. Lauren and Bethany “ground-truthed” and recorded several of the hiking sections of the GPT in central Patagonia based on my drafts in season 2015/16. This was an important contribution since I travelled with my wife primarily the packrafting routes. In the following season 2016/17 Bethany and Lauren made a complete GPS record while they hiked northbound from section GPT19 to GPT01. Especially the northern sections GPT01 to GPT05 were unverified terrain at this time and they investigated and recorded these fife sections.

But Bethany and Lauren provided much more than GPS records. With the blogs So-You-Wanna-Hike-The-GPT and Thru-Hiking-The-Greater-Patagonian-Trail they were the first to publicly rectify



Picture 503: GPT13: Bethany and Lauren with the Pehuenche family of Olga and Geronimo near Icalma. Image: www.her-odyssey.org

potentially wrong assumptions to the GPT. This was an important eye-opener for me because I travelled Patagonia nearly annually since 2002 and many peculiarities of this region became self-evident for me. When I started publishing the GPT I could not really put myself in the shoes of hikers who's understanding of hiking is a rather athletic walk on well-established public trails.

We met Lauren and Bethany in Santiago after they completed their walk on the GPT, discussed our experience of Patagonia and developed ideas how to better document this unique route network. In the following months Bethany and Lauren supported an update of the GPT documentation by reviewing and editing the Wikiexplora page and the Hikers' Manual.

Bethany and Lauren also initiated the Facebook GPT group as a platform of exchange between hikers. I did not actively use Facebook until 2017 and was first sceptical but Bethany showed me the benefits of such platform.

You should read the blogs of Bethany and Lauren to the sections that you are planning to walk: www.her-odyssey.org and www.laurensgrandadventure.blogspot.com.

I'm very grateful for their contributions and continued support.



Picture 504: GPT36H: Bethany speaking with Eraldo Rial on the Ruta de los Pioneros. Image: Lauren Reed



Picture 505: GPT47: Manuel in the making bread for Bethany and Lauren. Image: Lauren Reed

3.7.2 Danilo Contreras

Danilo is the *arriero* that formed our understanding of the *arriero* culture and that opened the Maule region for use. About two decades ago he started guiding horse riding tours between his home in Rari, the Laguna del Maule and the Laguna Dial (GPT07). During our horse-riding tours with Danilo and his friend Llito we were surprised that this region is full of mostly undocumented trails and this inspired us to search more routes on satellite images where official maps are basically blank. This experience laid the foundation for creating the GPT in the following years.

If you wish to discover parts of the GPT on horseback, then Danilo can provide you with a very authentic experience. You can contact him on www.chile-horseriding.com 🌎.



Picture 506: Danilo Contreras. Image: www.chile-horseriding.com

3.7.3 David Brophy

Dave is an IT specialist and passionate hiker who hiked and climbed in 2019 the high route of Great Himalaya Trail (GHT). After he completed this 1’400 km adventure in Nepal, he published the GPS track, trail notes and a video blog to provide essential resources for future hikers of the GHT.

When looking for a new hiking project Dave discovered the Greater Patagonian Trail. Without much asking he developed a Python software to process the GPT Track File in a smartphone friendly format for his planned hike in season 2021/22. When Dave explained me the features and capabilities of this software, we updated the GPT Track File structure and nomenclature and now I use Dave’s software to maintain the GPT Track File. This saves me countless hours of otherwise tedious work and provides all GPT hikers with a smartphone friendly GPT Track File.

In addition, he issued a long list of corrections of the Hikers’ Manual while reading that helped to cut down on spelling errors and typos.

I have received outstanding contributions from many hikers after they walked on the GPT, but Dave is the first one who provides an immense contribution long before his planned departure and this in a way that I did not imagine.

3.7.4 Estefania Chereguini and Walter Oszust

In our first investigation season in 2013/14 we reached Lago Puelo what is now the finish section GPT22. But regardless how careful I researched satellite images; I could not find a suitable southbound extension between Lago Puelo and Lago Cholila. All I could see were routes that terminated half-way in dense forest or boring paved roads.

Epa Expediciones from Esquel connected me with Estefania Chereguini and Walter Oszust, the founders of the Huella Andina. They know this area inside out and guided us in our second investigation season 2014/15 from Lago Cholila to Lago Puelo what is now section GPT23. Without their local expertise we would never have discovered this well-hidden route and we would have been stack in the forest and forced to return. Thanks to Estefania and Walter the GPT is now a continuous route that connects Parque Nacional Lago Puelo with Parque Nacional Los Alerces on a scenic route without significant road walking.



Picture 507: GPT23: Estefania Chereguini and Walter Oszust after showing us the well-hidden route from Lago Puelo to Lago Cholila

3.7.5 Garrett Martin

Garrett Martin is the director and producer of the 74-minute feature documentary “Unbounded”. This travel documentary from the GPT shows the beauty, the cultural richness but also the challenges of this trail network. By creating this work of art Garrett provides a revealing first impression of the GPT to prospective hikers. Garret together with three other novice hikers walked parts of the GPT in the season 2016/17 and published the film one year later in May 2018. You can download or stream this film from iTunes, Amazon or Vimeo. To draw the right conclusions for your hike read my comments to this film.



Picture 508: GPT19: Garrett Martin

3.7.6 Gerald Klamer

Gerald Klamer is a forest ranger from Germany who spend the hiking seasons 2016/17 and 2017/18 on the GPT. He loves to explore unverified investigation routes and where he can choose, he goes for the more remote and demanding option. This made him one of the most productive contributors to the GPT. He was the first[99] to “ground-truth” and record the northern sections GPT01 to GPT05, he investigated and recorded remote options of GPT06 and GPT07 and Gerald was the first that recorded the proposed backcountry route of GPT29H. Thanks to this verification I could change the Regular Route for a more scenic alternative and minimizes road walking in Central Patagonia substantially.

Links: Greater Patagonian Trail North: Summary and Conclusions, Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4, Part 5, Part 6, Part 7, Part 8, Part 9

Greater Patagonian Trail South (issued in German, best use Google translate): Teil 1, Teil 2, Teil 3, Teil 4, Teil 5, Teil 6, Teil 7, Teil 8, Teil 9



Picture 509: GPT06: Gerald Klamer investigating and recording the route around Laguna del Maule. Image: Gerald Klamer

[99] I planned sections GPT01 to GPT05 based on satellite images and a route published by Tobias Hellwig without ever having hiked in this area. Gerald Klamer walked sections GPT01 to GPT05 in January 2017 in southbound direction about one month before Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed investigated the same sections independently in northbound direction. All GPS records and trail descriptions were equally relevant to publish the verified version of these fife northern sections that extend the GPT now seamless to Santiago de Chile.

3.7.7 Federico Djeodjian

Federico is a tourist guide from Los Antiguos who investigated routes in Argentina that connect Lago General Carrera[100] and El Chalten. These are the eastern options of GPT36H and GPT37H. He published these routes under the name Sendero Gran Santa Cruz and suggested to incorporate these routes into the GPT network.

3.7.8 Felix Ossig-Bonanno

Felix is an outdoor enthusiast who hiked in season 2019/20 parts of the GPT with his family. During these hikes he investigated several unverified options of GPT32, GPT33H and GPT35. He also issued a list with corrections and change proposals while reading the Hikers' Manual.

3.7.9 Joaquin Barañao and Juan Pablo Marsiglia

Joaquin Barañao and Juan Pablo Marsiglia created wikiexpora.com, which became my platform of choice to publish the Greater Patagonian Trail. After the first investigation season 2013/14 and opting to publish my "discoveries" I was evaluating various possibilities how to publish this new trail network. I opted for wikiexplora.com because this page is specifically build to house such trail publications and facilitates a collaboration in between hikers. The wiki technology is generally easy to use and facilitates continuous updating by my multiple contributors.

[100] This Argentine portion of this lake is called Lago Buenos Aires.

3.7.10 Kara Davis and Michael Deckebach

Kara Davis and Michael Deckebach hiked and packrafted section GPT16 to GPT40 in season 2017/18 with home-made packrafts. They were certainly the lightest packrafters on the GPT, trimming every ounce off possible. They in example traveled without a stove and cooking gear. Check out their gear list. After their return they issued a very useful GPT Section Guide and provided essential ideas and suggestions how to structure and arrange this GPT Hikers' Manual.



Picture 510: Kara Davis and Michael Deckebach visiting Nari and Hector on GPT19. Image: Kara and Michael

3.7.11 Marta Angarita

Marta is Columbian biologist and bird of passage. She migrates every southern hemisphere summer to Patagonia where she frequently explores undocumented routes. Marta publishes these routes on Wikiexplora that serves me to expend and improve the GPT route network. In example section GPT33H contains major contributions from Marta.

3.7.12 Martin Hurtado Izquierdo

Martin Hurtado Izquierdo is to my knowledge the first hiker from Chile who hike most of the northern half of the GPT in season 2019/20. He is now becoming a valuable consultant for other hikers in Chile. Watch his video on Youtube.

3.7.13 Lea Geibel

Lea hiked parts of the GPT in season 2019/20. She has professional expertise in geosciences and contributed greatly to the section of this Hikers Manual in which satellite images and digital maps are discussed. She advocates the use of smartphones for navigation and provided to this topic several recommendations that are now incorporated in this documentation. The detailed description of the Locus navigation app is here original contribution.

3.7.14 Martin Lizondo

Martin Lizondo works as a teacher in Argentina and has been to my knowledge the first hiker from Latin America who hiked major parts of the GPT. From December 2018 to February 2019 he hiked sections GPT01 to GPT19 and from December 2019 to February 2020 he hiked section GPT20 to GPT40 leaving only few gaps due to weather related obstacles. Martin explored and recorded the hiking options of sections GPT76 and GPT78 along the Chilean coast what provides interesting alternative to sections GPT23 that is currently badly overgrown (status 2020). His approach is being very light and fast, applying strictly the principles of ultra-light-hiking. I highly recommend reading his Spanish blog homotheoreticus (issued in Spanish) and watch his videos on Youtube Part 1: GPT01 to GPT19 and Part 2: GPT20 to GPT40.



Picture 511: Martin Lizondo exploring and recording GPT78.

3.7.15 Matgorzata (Gosia) Gmerek and Paul Bostelmann

Gosia and Paul actually planned to explore Chile and Argentina by car but their car was stolen shortly after purchase and badly damaged in the attempt to steal an ATM (a Chilean speciality: steal car, put a cable around ATM and try to steal the ATM with brute force). This forced Gosia and Paul to replan their journey through Chile and Argentina and they opted to hike and paddle the GPT in season 2016/17. They explored and recorded section GPT25P. We met them in Coyhaique several months into their trip and opted to join for an investigation of optional routes of section GPT31P (Río Paloma, Lago Caro, Río Blanco). We successfully verified about half of the traverse but a completely overgrown trail forced us to leave the completion of this traverse for a future attempt. Later Gosia and Paul researched and recorded a barely used trail of section GPT36H (Valle Ventisquiero) and pioneered packrafting routes of section GPT36P (Rio Colorado, Lago Colorado, Lago Cisnes, Lago Ciervo) and section GPT38 (Lago Chico next to Glaciar Chico).

3.7.16 Matt Maynard

Matt Maynard is a photographer, filmmaker, writer, producer and is the founder of Earth Rise Productions. He holds a PG Cert in Climate Change Management and a Diploma in Carbon Management from the University of Edinburgh, as well as a BA Honours Degree in English Literature from York University. He is also a qualified British Mountain Leader. Since 2014 he has combined these skills to tell underreported stories from his base in Santiago de Chile. He has worked on mountain access, climate and social justice stories for the Guardian, BBC, Outside Magazine, Geographical Magazine, Red Bull and many more.



Picture 512: Matt Maynard.

He contributed to a good understanding of the GPT by issuing two articles in the Outside Magazine and Geographical Magazine and explored a demanding option of section GPT03 (Paso de Coligues).

3.7.17 Piia Kortsalo and Oliver Barker

Piia and Oliver, a Finnish-Canadian couple, walked in season 2016/17 sections GPT06 to GPT22 in about two month. They maximized their time on the trail by minimizing resupply stops, a strategy that we also apply and suggest. To efficiently cover longer multi-section legs Piia and Oliver paid a lot of attention to gear weight and function. They applied ultra-light principals but not so much to go fast but to get far. They normally started with food for about 10 days each time they resupplied and then walked as far as feasible.



Picture 513: GPT23: Piia and Oliver towards the end of their trip. Image: Oliver Barker

I'm impressed how they moved on even when they got in overgrown terrain and how they managed the sometimes unpredictable nature of the GPT. Where others turned around they kept going in a respectful and humble manner; a key attitude on the GPT.

Their publication on NothingTwoWrite certainly helps hikers to make appropriate choices and get properly prepared for the GPT.

After their hike both became very thoughtful consultants in updating the Wikiexplora page and this Hikers' Manual.

3.7.18 Rosie Wiscombe and Sean Ziehm-Stephen

Rose and Sean hiked good parts of the GPT in season 2018/19. Once I recognized that they do well and enjoy difficult explorations I suggested a number of unverified investigation routes. They were the first to recorded section GPT71 where countless cattle tracks send hikers in wrong directions and they verified a good number of options on section GPT08 and GPT07 including the remote eastern side of Laguna de Las Lajas.

3.7.19 Tobias Hellwig

Tobias, a Chilean of German descendance, has hiked and paddled in many areas of the southern Andes and is an important contributor on Wikiexplora.com. His contribution to the GPT was essential to plan the northern extension of the GPT. He was the first to record the Cuesta las Hormigas on section GPT05 that was the essential missing link to extend the GPT all the way to Santiago.

Together with Tobias and his friend Ricardo Campos we explored the very remote packrafting route of GPT29P from Rio Picacho to Puerto Cisnes and we researched together several more prospective routes.

Tobias contributed numerous options in the Aysen region and I’m certain the list of his contributions will grow in the coming years.

3.8 Publications to the GPT

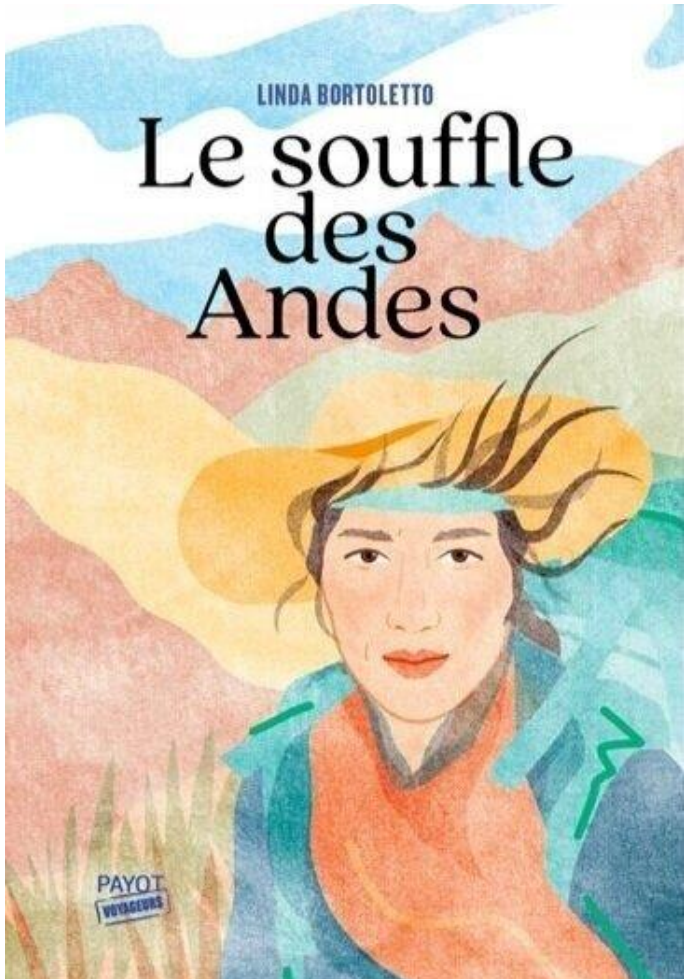
3.8.1 Printed Publications

3.8.1.1 Books

Le souffle des Andes by **Linda Bortoletto**.

Victime en 2019 d'une agression sexuelle d'une violence inouïe alors qu'elle parcourait seule, en Turquie, le Chemin des Soufis, Linda Bortoletto a décidé de se lancer quelques mois plus tard dans un périple de résilience et de purification en affrontant l'un des treks les plus difficiles de la planète, le Greater Patagonian Trail, qui, depuis Santiago du Chili, traverse les Andes sur 3000 kilomètres non balisés, absolument sauvages, dangereux, où règnent les quatre éléments (volcans en activité, torrents déchaînés, apocalyptiques tempêtes, végétation parfois infranchissable), et qui va la conduire au bout du monde, là où renouer avec la vie.

Publishing house: Payot voyageurs. ISBN: 9782228927871. Languages: French.



Picture 514: Le souffle des Andes by Linda Bortoletto. Cover by Sara Deux.

3.8.1.2 Magazines

Several magazines published articles to the GPT (newest to latest):

Article in **Outside Magazine** by Matt Maynard: The Quest to Complete the Greater Patagonian Trail (2019)

Article in **Geographical Magazine** by Matt Maynard: Plotting the Greater Patagonian Trail (February 2019)

Article in **Patagon Journal** by Thomas Moggia: The Greater Patagonian Trail (English & Spanish, Issue 14, July 2017)

Article in **Outside Magazine** by Charles Bethea: The Best New Thru-Hikes (June 27, 2017)

Article in **GoOutside Magazine Brazil** by Bruno Romano: Patagônia de cabo a rabo (Portuguese, Issue 132, August 2016)

3.8.2 Films and Videos

3.8.2.1 Feature Films

Unbounded by Garrett Martin



Picture 515: GPT06: Robyn, Aljoscha and Anthony with their oversized backpacks. Image: Garrett Martin

In season 2016/17 Garrett Martin came to Chile with three other notice hikers to create a travel documentary along the GPT. Badly overloaded with camera gear, recording equipment and packrafts they started on section GPT06 and did not make it very far. But in contrast to others that started with similar “oversized” plans Garrett and his team did not give up. They learned their lessons and gradually adapted to the trail. They downscaled but did not scrap their plans and picked the most attractive sections in the northern half of the GPT. In this way they hiked and documented several highlights of the GPT and took the time to meet the people along the trail.

The result of this adventure is the 74-minute feature film “Unbounded” that shows the beauty, the cultural richness but also the challenges of this trail network. I recommend watching this work of art as part of their preparation. You can download or stream this film from iTunes, Amazon or Vimeo.

Hiked on the GPT: GPT06 (partly), GPT07, GPT10-GPT12, GPT17, GPT18 (partly), GPT19, GPT22 (partly)

Link: www.unboundedthefilm.com

To draw the right conclusions for your hike read my comments to the film “Unbounded” either before or better after watching:

- This film is an authentic documentation of the beauty and the local culture of the zones most recommended for hiking. By focusing on their individual experience of the trail without even trying to provide an overview of the GPT this film is rather an appetizer than a proper meal for someone getting prepared to hike or packraft on the GPT.

- Garrett and his team had the right attitude for GPT. Humbleness and persistence compensated in part the lack of outdoor experience and navigational skills. Recognizing when to retreat is essential on these informal routes that surprise even weathered hikers.

- In the hiking season 2016/17 the GPT documentation was still in its infancy. This Hikers’ Manual was inexistent and the article on Wikiexplora did not reflect the lessons learned from other hikers. And I was a novice adviser for other hikers. Having spent most of my spare time of the previous decade in Chile and Argentina I struggled to put myself in the place of someone unfamiliar with Patagonia. In hindsight I must admit that I took good parts of my local knowledge for granted and did not document all challenges with clarity.

- Garrett and other team members lacked outdoor experience and the GPT is not really the place to take such lessons safely. Without the expertise to pack just the right gear they were far too heavy to advance fast enough on the more demanding sections. In example carrying a packraft in areas where such a boat is just a burden was not a wise choice. But they learned it the hard way and eventually mastered selected highlights of the GPT to shoot some fascinating footage.

- They struggled with setting up the GPS and hiked with outdated trail files. A few weeks before they departed, I published an improved route network that in example replaced one demanding bush bashing route by a decent trail in a different valley. They tried to copy the update on the GPS, but a malfunction resulted in seeing only the outdated route network without a topographic map in the background. Therefore, they missed to take the recommended route and stumbled unintentionally on demanding unverified exploration routes. Overloaded with camera gear and undersupplied with food they run out of reserves in in a pretty bad spot and had no other choice than to return.

- There is one more lesson that I learned from Garrett's experience and also others that are not listed here. If someone intents to make a documentary or film along the trail then I strongly recommend now to first come one season without much camera gear to simply get to know the trail, the region and in particular the people. Be a silent observer first before speaking up to others!

3.8.2.2 Youtube Videos

Martin Lizondo is the first Argentine and **Martin Hurtado Izquierdo** is the first Chilean who hiked major parts of the GPT. Both published summarizing videos of their journey on youtube. These three videos provide an excellent impression of the main route of the GPT showing primarily landscape footage and the trail experience in the correct section sequence. These three videos belong on the “must watch” list of every hiker that plans to walk parts of the GPT.

- Martin Lizondo: Greater Patagonian Trail 2018-2019 (Sections GPT01 to GPT19)
  Greater Patagonian Trail (II) 2019-2020 (Sections GPT20 to GPT40)

- Martin Hurtado Izquierdo: Travesía por los Andes Ocultos (Sections GPT06 to GPT19)

Iohan Gueorguiev combines a couple traits that are essential to create good travel documentaries: He is as curious as resilient, he has the load carrying capacity of a mule, he has the technical expertise to deploy drones and other special filming gear and last but not least: he has the cinematographic talent to shoot fantastic footage and compose them into works of art that are worthwhile to watch.

He travelled in roughly 5 years with a fatbike and a packraft from Alaska to Patagonia. In many regions he avoided the more convenient roads but dragged his fatbike over the most remote trails he could possibly find. Thanks to his resilience he managed with a fatbike routes that scared off regular hikers. When his beaten-up bike finally fell apart in central Patagonia he switched to hiking and packrafting. Iohan’s documentaries do not follow continuously the GPT network but they are definitely a treat and highly recommended to watch. Based on Episode 37 and 38 I added more option to section GPT37P.

Here a selection of Episodes that either document parts of the GPT or areas in close vicinity to GPT.

- SEE THE WORLD Episode 31 (Section GPT05, currently unavailable)
- SEE THE WORLD Episode 32 (Minute 0 to 12: Section GPT05 and GPT06)
- SEE THE WORLD Episode 32 (Minute 28 to Finish: Section GPT08 to GPT12)
- SEE THE WORLD Episode 33 (Section GPT12 to GPT16)
- SEE THE WORLD Episode 36 (Section GPT36H)
- SEE THE WORLD Episode 37 (Section GPT37P)
- SEE THE WORLD Episode 38 (Section GPT37P and GPT38)

Virgile Woisard is a French hiker who started in September 2017 in Ushuaia on the southern tip of Latin America. He hikes unsupported at a pace of 30 km per day and aims to walk all the way to Alaska. He followed from GPT39 to GPT03 mostly the GPT network but in some parts high rivers and closed borders forced him off the trails. He reached Santiago in less than 6 months making him the first hiker that covered the length of the GPT in one season.

- THE AMERICAN HIKE - Official Movie Trailer
- E03 - Greater Patagonian Trail (Sections GPT39 - GPT28)
- E04 - Greater Patagonian Trail (Sections GPT25H - GPT19)
- E05 - Greater Patagonian Trail (Sections GPT15 - GPT08)
- E06 - Greater Patagonian Trail (Sections GPT06 - GPT01)

Bethany Hughes and **Lauren Reed** issue an informative blog on www.her-odyssey.org and published a few shorter videos:

- thru-hiking Patagonia: Her Odyssey - 2016 (Section GPT69 – GPT27)
- Day 84- Roadwalking toward Coyhaique on Greater Patagonia Trail (Section GPT31)
- Greater Patagonia Trail: Glissading in Puyehue (Section GPT19)
- thru-Hiking the Greater Patagonia Trail: Between Antuco and Velluda (Section GPT09)
- 1800 Goats on the Greater Patagonia Trail (Section GPT07)

A French couple, Lauric and Pauline, aimed to walk from Ushuaia to Quito. They started in October 2019, walked primarily on roads to avoid the slower and unpredictable trails of the GPT and used occasionally motorized transport. They published four 5-minute videos under the name **the trailwalker**.

- 1 MOIS EN 5 MINUTES #1: LA PATAGONIE AUSTRALE (Ushuaia to Puerto Natales)
- 1 MOIS EN 5 MINUTES #2: ADIOS LA PAMPA! (Puerto Natales to El Chalten)
- 1 MOIS EN 5 MINUTES #3: LE GREATER PATAGONIAN TRAIL (El Chalten to Coyhaique / GPT39 - GPT31)
- 1 MOIS EN 5 MINUTES #4: LA CARRETERA AUSTRAL (Coyhaique to El Bolson)

Matt Maynard made a 1-minute video of his investigation of the Paso de Coligues route of section GPT03.

- Greater Patagonia Trail Section 3

If you are a gear junkie you might be interested to watch the equipment presentation of **Karen Davis and Michael Deckebach**.

- Greater Patagonia Trail Gear List

3.8.3 Blogs and Online Publications

Many informative blogs are already mentioned and linked in chapter 3.7 Distinct Contributors on page 1190. Selected additional blogs and online publications are referred below.

The following blogs are of particular interest for **hikers that contemplate with a thru-hike of the GPT** or that have thru-hiking experience in the US (AT, PCT, CDT):

- Virgile Woisard is the first hiker that covered the length of the GPT in one season. He walked most of the distance on the GPT routes but in some areas deteriorating weather, closed borders and other adverse circumstances forced him off the GPT onto alternative roads. Read his conclusions to the GPT in his blog: www.marcheursansfrontieres.wordpress.com (issued in French, best use Google translate).

- Anna Liszewska and Matúš Lašan chose the GPT for their honeymoon and they got close to complete the first thru-hike in season 2019/20. They started at the end of November with walking the regular hiking route from GPT01 to GPT21 southbound, then flipped south, and walked from GPT40 to GPT27H northbound. By mid-March 2020 they had mastered most challenging sections and had just 450 km of mostly easy terrain left. But then the Corona pandemic finally reached Chile with force, borders got closed and they had to rush home with one of the last evacuation flights. But best read their online publications yourself: matus-lasan-greater-patagonian-trail-showcase-dobrodruzstvi-patagonie (issued in Czech, best use Google translate), www.hikemates.com (issued in Slovak, best use Google translate), www.lighterpack.com and www.annaliszewska.com (issued in Polish and English).

- Two articles highly recommended to thru-hiking are So-You-Wanna-Hike-The-GPT and Thru-Hiking-The-Greater-Patagonian-Trail written by Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed. As already mentioned in the previous chapter they were the first to hike the length of the GPT over two seasons (season 2015/16 and 2016/17).

- Christine Thürmer traversed in season 2018/19 most of the northern half of the GPT. Before she ventured on the GPT, she had already hiked 43'000 kilometers, including the renowned long-distance trails in the US (AT, PCT, CDT). Read in her blog what surprised such an experienced hikers on the GPT: www.christine-on-big-trip.com

- Austin Davis hiked in 2018 the PCT yo-yo. That's 8'500 km in seven months; first from the border of Mexico to Canada and then back. He started on the GPT in December 2018 but aborted after 240 km and 8 hiking days (Section GPT01 to GPT03). He stated: "I've decided to bail on the Greater Patagonian Trail for now. It's been an incredible adventure, but the language barrier is making it more of a chore than something I'm enjoying. I not comfortable traveling through private properties when I'm unable to explain my reason for being there. This is a rugged, lonely route, that gains much from the people you experience along the way. I think you could hike this trail without speaking Spanish, but I'm not sure why you'd want to. Plus I'm lonely as hell! Hiking alone is tough when there's no trail community.": www.notabadplacetopee.com

- Lauric and Pauline planned to hike the GPT northbound as part of a much longer endeavour: a walk from the southern tip of the continent to the equator. After starting in October 2019 in Ushuaia they walked about one month on roads before reaching the southern terminus of the GPT. When they hit for the first time the typical horse trail of the GPT on section GPT36H they advanced much slower than expected, run out of food, and were forced to return. After this experience, they walked primarily on roads to avoid the slow and unpredictable trails. They returned to the GPT on section GPT12 and walked on the GPT till

GPT09. Read their blog www.thetrailwalker.fr (issued in French, best use Google translate).

- A blog that clearly belongs in this list is the publication of Brian Tanzman (Buck-30). He is a passionate thru-hiker from the US, who walked most of the renowned long-distance trails in his home country including the CDT, PCT and AT ("Triple-Crown"). These generally well-maintained public trails in the US are his gold-standard for long-distance trails. Without any Spanish language knowledge Brian hiked with Richard Larson (Skittles) parts of the GPT in season 2016/17. At this time, the GPT and its publication were still in its infancy.

  His daily notes and in particular his summary to the GPT expresses a good portion of frustration and disappointment. In part, Brian simply loves complaining about everything and everyone. But the core of his complain is very true; you can't walk the GPT efficiently what makes the GPT unsuitable for classic thru-hiking. I at first found his summary inappropriate but then I recognized that his disappointment is caused by a different concept of hiking. For me, the land and its people form a unity and when hiking I strive for cultural immersion as much as I seek epic landscapes. The GPT offers plenty of both and the unpredictability spices the adventure. But the GPT is a poor choice for purists that are just out for an athletic walk.

  For me Brian's blog was an eye opener and helped me in developing the GPT documentation by better explaining this route network and emphasising what not to expect. I frequently send the link to his blog to prospective hikers with a similar thru-hiking background. Unfortunately, Brian took his blog and summary offline. But there is a podcast with Brian to the GPT and Skittles trail journal.

Trail-runners might find this online article interesting:

- Andrea Lopez: greater-patagonian-trail-o-la-mejor-ruta-en-chile-que-nunca-podras-correr

Other highly recommended blogs:

- Martina and Fede from Austria issued a blog in German that is worthwhile reading. They hiked in season 2018/19 first the two classic trails in the far south (Torres del Paine and El Chalten) and then hiked a good selection of GPT sections between GPT22 and GPT06. They quickly realized that the GPT becomes better digestible for them if slowing down, immerging into the land and spending time in company with the locals: www.longlanehome.wordpress.com

- Linda Bortoletto hiked in season 2019/20 good parts of the GPT between section GPT06 and section GPT40. See a selection of her images www.lindabortoletto.com/greater-patagonian-trail and read how she prepared for this walk www.lindabortoletto.com/mon-blog.

3.8.4 Statements of a Triple-Crown Thru-Hikers to the GPT

Lauren Reed (Neon) comparing the GPT with the US long-distance trails (CDT, PCT, AT)

Lauren "Neon" Reed thru-hiked the AT (2008), the PCT (2010) and the CDT (2013). She also thru-hiked the Colorado Trail (2012) and made many unmapped cross-country hikes in the wilderness of Utah before she thru-hiked the GPT in two seasons (2015 to 2017). This makes Lauren the best person to compare the GPT with the famous US long-distance trails. She writes:

"Having thru-hiked about 8,000 miles in the US before beginning our trek across South America, I would still find myself in over my head at times along the Greater Patagonia Trail. This included terrain as well as culture. The places I've been along the GPT, as a generality, seem more remote than most distance trails I've experienced in the US- think central/northern Montana along the CDT, minus the bears and plus a few more passes. As you walk along the GPT, you will go through many diverse ecosystems, as opposed to desert/mountains which you experience on many trails in the US. The GPT takes you from the glaciated southern Icefield of Chile up through pine trees, lush dense deciduous forest, alti-planos, valleys teeming with animals wild and farmed, along/through rivers and lakes (also wild and farmed), volcanoes, to the more arid environments south of Santiago, as well as a few border crossings into Argentina. It is by far the hardest trail I have done due to remoteness as well as terrain- yes, there are times you follow valleys, there are also times along this trail where you will go up, across and down 1,000 meter passes each day (sometimes multiple times in a day), following overgrown horse and animal paths. There are no trail markers or blazes, sometimes there isn't even a 'trail'- just a cross-country route. Do not expect anyone to know what you are doing or why you just walked down their driveway/out of their shrub/over their fence/through their gate (which you closed behind you, right?)

This trail definitely has easier sections, but I cannot remember a day where I didn't look at my compass and/or GPS along the

entirety of the GPT. Because of the options we were given and Jan requesting us to investigate some options he had yet to check out personally, I began calling certain sections "Choose your own Adventure", meaning go whichever way you want, as long as you're near the route labeled as the GPT on your GPS. We also tried to not do anything stupid, though there were times I nearly was swept away trying to cross a strong-flowing river or nearly slid down a steep scree field along the GPT. This is not a trail for someone who doesn't know how to use a GPS or Compass. This is not a trail for someone who doesn't know how to properly read a river to know where the best place to cross is. This is not a trail for anyone who doesn't at least have a basic understanding of topography as well as map and compass skills. Jan has a great route mapped so you can download it onto a GPS, but when you come across an area that's swept away by last years snowmelt or on fire, do you have a plan or any idea what to do? What if you're not paying attention to your battery life and your GPS dies? Don't go up shit creek without a paddle, as the saying goes.

There won't always be what you may want in town to eat or even a place to stay with hot water. Knowing at least basic Spanish language skills is a must if you want to feel connected or informed in any of the areas you go through. Any effort of understanding the culture and land goes a long way. Thankfully, I have a basic understanding which has grown over our trek and my hiking partner is fluent in cultural sensitivities as well as the Spanish language. As Jan states, you are an uninvited guest on others' land at times- tread respectfully and carefully- Most of the time, they will respond in kind."

Christine Thürmer (German Tourist) comparing the GPT with the US long-distance trails (CDT, PCT, AT) and European Long-Distance Trails:

When I started on the GPT I had already hiked 43,000 kilometers primarily in the United States and Europe. I am not only a Triple Crowner that thru-hiked the famous scenic trails in the US, but I'm also home on the European long-distance trails. Therefore I was convinced that I had walked enough that no trail can surprise me any more.

The GPT immediately taught me that I was wrong! It turned out to be very different from what I had expected and from any other long-distance trail I had hiked before. My previous experiences had led me to a wrong anticipation despite a meticulous study of the 700 page „Hikers' Manual" and long talks with other GPT hikers. It took me a long time to adapt to this trail and to enjoy it. These were my primary challenges:

I was annoyed by the high unpredictability of the GPT which I had never experienced on other dedicated hiking trails. Hardly any day went as planned. Again and again unexpected obstacles turned up: large snowfields, overgrown trails, impossible river crossings, volcano alerts or denied access. My average „mileage" dropped from 30 - 35 kilometers per day to only 20 - 25 kilometers per day on the GPT.

If you are not 100% free of vertigo and 100% sure-footed you will need a lot of willpower to cope with some of the steep, exposed and eroded trail sections of the GPT. I'm personally not much afraid of heights and have hiked thousands of kilometers in alpine landscape. But I learnt on the GPT that it is a big difference to traverse a steep slope on a well maintained dedicated hiking trail in a popular area or on a badly eroded horse trail in the middle of nowhere. On one occasion I even turned back because the

traverse of a very steep slope seemed too dangerous to me.

Most of these trail sections are technically not too difficult and although a fall or slip would probably not be fatal, it could still lead to serious injury – and on the GPT there is no one to help! A Carabinero (Police in Chile) in one of the lonely outposts put it this way: “If you slip here you probably don't die immediately from the fall. It takes around three days before you die of thirst or exhaustion. So please leave us your passport details so that we know whose bones we have found.” I carried a PLB for emergencies but you have to be aware that it can take days before someone comes to rescue you.

All these obstacles and threats prevented me from getting into the “flow”, the state in which I can hike mindlessly and unimpeded for hours and days. On most other trails I take a rest day every seven to ten days, but the GPT was so stressful for me that I took more rest days than normal. I also had to say good-bye to my diehard principle of connecting footsteps. This rule is just not feasible on a trail with unpredictable river crossings and volcano alerts.

Another source of discomfort was the frequent trespassing over private properties. I had to climb so many gates and fences without ever knowing if this barrier was built to keep the cattle in or if the owner really wants me to stay out. I had several encounters with security guards, was occasionally escorted out of properties or sneaked in and was hiding myself. Although I had not a single aggressive encounter whatsoever I very often felt uneasy about this situation.

I am usually a very happy solo hiker and prefer going alone but on the GPT I wished for company - not only for safety reasons, but to share the frequent frustration with unexpected obstacles and to take decisions with a hiking partner. This does not mean that you cannot hike the GPT alone. I did it and will do it again. It just means that you will endure a lot more mental stress than on other

trails. Be prepared to be psychologically overwhelmed and treat yourself accordingly.

On the positive side the GPT is one of the most spectacular trails I have ever hiked. Its beauty and variety rivals any of the American Triple Crown Trails and I felt an incredible sense of freedom being out there. I was particularly fascinated by the unique landscapes that you will almost only find in Chile like the Valdivian rain forest or the numerous volcanoes. I absolutely loved the hot springs!

There is no trail community whatsoever and you will hardly meet any other hikers but I have had the most interesting and friendly encounters with settlers, arrieros (Chilean cowboys) and Carabineros. It was a cultural experience that was completely new for me.

I found Chile a very easy country to travel and Chileans to be some of the most friendly and helpful people in the world. But keep in mind that I speak fluent Spanish. Without at least some basic knowledge of Spanish you will have a hard time on the GPT and you will miss out on the interesting encounters with the locals. A lot of important logistical information for GPT hikers, like bus schedules or the location of resupply options are not available on the internet. You will have to ask the locals and understand their answers! This was one of the most adventurous and fascinating trails I have ever hiked – and one of the most challenging.

Did I like the GPT? Yes and No. On the GPT I have been singing with joy and I have been screaming frustrated curses. I loved it and I hated it - sometimes both within five minutes. Would I do it again? Yes, I am planning to hike and paddle the Southern part, too - but only after a decent break recuperating from my first hike on the GPT.

3.9 Further Reading and Recommended Literature

3.9.1 Natural History, Fauna and Flora

To be issued.

3.9.2 Human History

To be issued.

3.9.3 Contemporary Travel Literature

To be issued.

3.10 Suggestions for Governments and Regional Administrations

3.10.1 General Considerations

To be issued.

3.10.2 Suggestions for National Administration

To be issued.

3.10.3 Suggestions for Regional Administration

To be issued.

3.11 Section Statistics and Track Nomenclature

To be issued.

3.11.1 Calculation of Distances, Ascents, Descents and Timing

All **distances** are all based on corrected GPS records without any seek and search detours and without the typical GPS recording noise. For parts without actual GPS recordings these values are calculated based on hand-drawn tracks that were sketched on satellite images in Google Earth.

All **altitudes, ascents and descents** are extracted from digital maps (Garmin TOPO Chile Deluxe) with a reasonable precise altitude profile and not taken from actual GPS recordings or barometric measurements that typically have a higher error margin. This method proved to provide reliable, consistent and conceivable data that is more accurate than actual GPS records[101].

I intentionally do not suggest a specific number of hiking days for each section because the walking rhythm varies substantially between hikers. Instead I **estimated** the **hiking time or moving time** in hours for each section. This is the actual time that someone needs to walk or to packraft to get from the section start to the section finish without counting daytime breaks, overnight rests or the necessary time to set up a packraft before paddling or re-packing the backpack to continue hiking.

[101] If you evaluate GPS records in detail you will notice recording noise causing small fluctuating measurement errors. This recording noise becomes most obvious when you i.e. rest with the GPS not switched off. Then the recording “dances” around the point of rest and continues to accumulate distance, ascent and descent while not moving at all. These accumulated measurement errors and occasional minor search detours result typically in 5% to 10% higher values for distance, ascent and descent of actual GPS records if compared with the corrected tracks. Therefore don’t expect that your personal GPS record will coincide with these values even if you do not leave the trail. This deviation is expected and does not indicate that the here documented values are incorrect. It simply shows methodical differences and normal GPS measurement errors.

The estimated hiking time or moving time is a reasonable reliable planning baseline because a different hiking pace is not so much driven by a different walking speed but by the time a hiker walks each day. Getting up early, taking only few short breaks and walking into the evening is what makes a hiker advance, not trying to run. If I would recommend a specific number of days for each section I would indirectly suggest a specific hiking style and this is not what I intent.

Table 16: Calculation Factors for Hiking / Moving Time on page 362 resulted in a surprisingly small average deviation to our actual moving time recorded by GPS[102].

When I evaluated our GPS records I was surprised that we did not move nearly one third of the time between leaving the camp in the morning and pitching our tent again in the evening. So if we in example left camp around 9:00 in the morning and walked till 18:00 in the evening then we were 9 hours on the trail of which we moved 6 hours. It did not appear to us that we made such long breaks but in this respect the GPS records do not lie. I'm sure, other hikers are more disciplined and steady walkers and cover therefore more distance each day but we are not on race so we don't mind.

We are not fast hikers, therefore the walking times calculated with these factors are conservative as long as a reasonable value for the daily moving time is used. **If you do not have actual measurements of your personal daily moving time use 5 hours per day** to start with. While advancing you can readjust this number that is relevant to correctly plan your food rations for each section.

The below documented values are based on the regular routes from the section start to the section finish in the documentation orientation (generally southbound). Choosing optional routes, adding side trips or taking short cuts can alter the distance, ascent

[102] The average deviation between the daily calculated and daily measured moving time was approx. 15 minutes based on our 80 daily GPS records.

and descent substantially. Therefore, to plan your trip evaluate the actual route that you plan to take and calculate with enough reserves.

3.11.2 Section Location and Section Planning Status

Verified: At least the regular route was hiked or packrafted in recent years and several GPS records were provided to the founder of the GPT. Hikers can be reasonably confident that the regular route is traversable but this does not necessarily apply to all optional routes and even less to the exploration routes of these sections.

Mostly Verified: There is clear evidence that the regular route was travelled some time ago and the available information permitted to map the regular route. The regular route is probably traversable but the condition might have deteriorated.

Partially Verified: Detailed routes have been planned using satellite images and multiple other sources, but these routes were only partially verified and recorded by GPS. There is good evidence that these routes have been used in the past, but the current condition and the precise routing is partly not yet ground-truthed and recorded by GPS.

To be Recorded by GPS: These sections have been hiked recently but without recording the hike by GPS. Therefore the next hikers should record their hike of this section by GPS completely from start to finish.

To be Verified: Detailed routes have been planned using satellite images and multiple other sources but these routes have not been verified or “ground-truthed”. Hikers attempting such sections should plan with significant extra time and extra food and be prepared to back-track if needed.

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name		Code	Country	Region/Province	
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	n/a	A	Chile	Metropolitano (V)	Verified
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	n/a	A	Chile	Metropolitano (V) O'Higgins (VI)	Verified
GPT03	Rios Claros	n/a	A	Chile	O'Higgins (VI)	Verified
GPT04	Alto Huemul	n/a	A	Chile	O'Higgins (VI) Maule (VII)	Verified
GPT05	Rio Colorado	n/a	B	Chile	Maule (VII)	Verified
GPT06	Descabezado	GPT01	B	Chile	Maule (VII)	Verified
GPT07	Laguna Dial	GPT02	B	Chile	Maule (VII) Bío Bío (VIII)	Verified
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	GPT03	B	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII)	Verified
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	GPT04	B	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII)	Verified
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	GPT05	C	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII)	Verified
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	GPT06	C	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII) Araucanía (IX)	Verified
GPT12	Rio Rahue	GPT07	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Verified
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	GPT08	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Verified
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	GPT08	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Verified
GPT15	Curarrehue	GPT09	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Verified

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	GPT10	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX) Los Ríos (XIV)	Verified
GPT17H	Liquine	GPT11H	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV)	Verified
GPT17P	Neltume	GPT11P	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV)	Verified
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	GPT12	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV)	Verified
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	GPT13	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV) Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	GPT14	D	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	GPT15	D	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT22	Cochamo	GPT16	D	Chile Argentina	Los Lagos (X) Chubut	Verified
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	GPT17	E	Argentina	Chubut	Verified
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	GPT18	E	Argentina	Chubut	Verified
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	GPT18	E	Argentina	Chubut	Verified
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	GPT19H	E	Argentina	Chubut	Verified
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimey	GPT19P	E	Argentina	Chubut	Mostly Verified
GPT26	Carrenleufu	GPT20	E	Argentina Chile	Chubut Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT27H	Lago Palena	GPT21H	F	Chile	Los Lagos (X) Aysén (XI)	Verified

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT27P	Alto Rio Palena	GPT21P	F	Chile	Los Lagos (X) Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT28H	La Tapera	GPT22H	F	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT28P	Bajo Rio Palena	GPT22P	F	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	GPT23H	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	GPT23P	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT30H	Coyhaique	GPT24H	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	GPT24P	F	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	GPT25H	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	GPT25P	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	GPT26	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT33H	Torres de Avellano	GPT27H	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT33P	Rio Ibanez	GPT27P	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	GPT28	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	n/a	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	n/a
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	GPT29	H	Chile (Argentina)	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	GPT30H	H	Chile (Argentina)	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT36P	Rio Baker	GPT30P	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	GPT31	I	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT37P	Lago O'Higgins	n/a	I	Chile	Aysén (XI)	To be Verified
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	GPT31	I	Chile Argentina	Aysén (XI) Rio Negro	Verified
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	GPT32	I	Argentina	Rio Negro	Verified
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	GPT33	I	Argentina	Rio Negro	Verified
GPT41	Lago Viedma	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	Verified
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	Verified
GPT43	Lago Argentina	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	Verified
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	Verified
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	n/a	J	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	n/a	J	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT47	Seno Skyring	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Verified
GPT48	Seno Otway	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT50	Cabo Froward	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT60P	Estrecho de Magellanes	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Verified
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Verified
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Verified
GPT65P	Canal Beagle	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Verified
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT68	Tolhuin	n/a	L	Argentina Chile	Tierra del Fuego Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT69	Ushuaia	n/a	L	Argentina Chile	Tierra del Fuego Magellanes (XII)	Verified
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	GPT21P	M	Argentina Chile	Chubut Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT71	Espolon	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	GPT21P	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Mostly Verified
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT74P	Rio Yelcho	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT75P	Rio Frio	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	n/a	N	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	n/a	N	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	n/a	N	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Verified

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name		Code	Country	Region/Province	
GPT78P	Estuario Reloncavi	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	To be Verified
GPT80P	Glaciar Exploradores	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	To be Verified
GPT81P	Glaciar Leones	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Verified
GPT82P	Aysen Glacier Trail	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	To be Verified
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	n/a	P	Chile	Aysén (XI)	To be Verified
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	n/a	P	Chile	Aysén (XI)	To be Verified
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	n/a	P	Chile	Aysén (XI)	To be Verified
HA	Huella Andina	n/a	Q	Argentina	Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut	Published By Others

Table 170: Section Location and Section Planning Status

3.11.3 Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence

Section Start, Finish and Adjacent Sections				
Section Designation		Section Location		Adjacent Sections
Code	Name	Regular Start Point	Regular Finish Point	
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	Santiago (Metro Puente Alto)	El Melocotón	GPT02
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	El Melocotón	Coya	GPT01, GPT03
GPT03	Rios Claros	Coya	Aguas Buenas	GPT02, GPT04
GPT04	Alto Huemul	Aguas Buenas	Los Queñes	GPT03, GPT05
GPT05	Rio Colorado	Los Queñes	Radal	GPT04, GPT06
GPT06	Descabezado	Radal	La Mina (Termas del Médano)	GPT05, GPT07
GPT07	Laguna Dial	La Mina (Termas del Médano)	Puente Ingles	GPT06, GPT08
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	Puente Ingles	Abanico	GPT07, GPT09
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	Abanico	Trapa Trapa (Posta)	GPT08, GPT10
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	Trapa Trapa (Posta)	Guallali (Carabiñeros)	GPT09, GPT11
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	Guallali (Carabiñeros)	Ranquil (Carabiñeros)	GPT10, GPT12
GPT12	Rio Rahue	Ranquil (Carabiñeros)	Liucura	GPT11, GPT13
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	Liucura	Icalma	GPT12, GPT14
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	Icalma	Reigolil	GPT13, GPT15
GPT15	Curarrehue	Reigolil	Currarehue	GPT14, GPT16
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	Currarehue	Reyehueico	GPT15, GPT17H, GPT17P

Section Start, Finish and Adjacent Sections				
Section Designation		**Section Location**		**Adjacent Sections**
Code	**Name**	**Regular Start Point**	**Regular Finish Point**	
GPT17H	Liquine	Reyehueico	Puerto Fuy	GPT16, GPT17P, GPT18
GPT17P	Neltume	Reyehueico	Puerto Fuy	GPT16, GPT17H, GPT18
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	Puerto Fuy	Puerto Maihue	GPT17H, GPT17P, GPT19
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	Puerto Maihue	Anticura (CONAF)	GPT18, GPT20
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	Anticura (CONAF)	Las Gaviotas	GPT19, GPT21
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	Las Gaviotas	Cochamó	GPT20, GPT22, GPT78H, GPT78P
GPT22	Cochamo	Cochamó	Lago Puelo (Puerto)	GPT21, GPT23, GPT78H, GPT78P
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	Lago Puelo (Puerto)	Villa Lago Rivadavia	GPT22, GPT24H, GPT24P
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	Villa Lago Rivadavia	Villa Futalaufquen	GPT23, GPT24P, GPT25H, GPT25P
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	Villa Lago Rivadavia	Lago Kruger Lodge	GPT23, GPT24H, GPT25H, GPT25P
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	Villa Futalaufquen, Lago Kruger Lodge	Aldea Escolar	GPT24H, GPT24P, GPT25P, GPT26, GPT70
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimey	Lago Kruger Lodge	Aldea Escolar	GPT24H, GPT24P, GPT25H, GPT26, GPT70
GPT26	Carrenleufu	Aldea Escolar	Palena	GPT25H, GPT25P, GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT70
GPT27H	Lago Palena	Palena	Lago Verde	GPT26, GPT27P, GPT28H, GPT30P, GPT75P

Section Start, Finish and Adjacent Sections				
Section Designation		**Section Location**		**Adjacent Sections**
Code	**Name**	**Regular Start Point**	**Regular Finish Point**	
GPT27P	Alto Rio Palena	Palena	Río Palena (La Junta)	GPT26, GPT27H, GPT28P, GPT72, GPT75P
GPT28H	La Tapera	Lago Verde	La Tapera	GPT27H, GPT29H
GPT28P	Bajo Rio Palena	Río Palena (La Junta)	Puerto Cisnes	GPT27P, GPT29P, GPT30P, GPT31P, GPT74P, GPT75P
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	La Tapera	Carretera Austral (Camino Picaflor)	GPT28H, GPT29P, GPT30H
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	Carretera Austral (Camino Picaflor)	Puerto Cisnes	GPT28P, GPT29H, GPT30H, GPT30P, GPT31P, GPT90P
GPT30H	Coyhaique	Carretera Austral (Camino Picaflor)	Coyhaique	GPT29H, GPT29P, GPT31H
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	Puerto Cisnes	Puerto Cisnes	GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT28H, GPT28P, GPT29P, GPT31P, GPT75P
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	Coyhaique	Villa Frei	GPT30H, GPT31P, GPT32
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	Puerto Cisnes	Villa Frei	GPT28P, GPT29P, GPT30P, GPT31H, GPT32, GPT90P
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	Villa Frei	Villa Cerro Castillo	GPT31H, GPT31P, GPT33H, GPT33P
GPT33H	Torres de Avellano	Villa Cerro Castillo	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)	GPT32, GPT33P, GPT34H, GPT34P, GPT80P, GPT81P

Section Start, Finish and Adjacent Sections				
Section Designation		**Section Location**		**Adjacent Sections**
Code	**Name**	**Regular Start Point**	**Regular Finish Point**	
GPT33P	Rio Ibanez	Villa Cerro Castillo	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)	GPT32, GPT33H, GPT34H
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)	Chile Chico (Puerto)	GPT33H, GPT33P, GPT35
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez (Puerto)	Chile Chico (Puerto)	GPT33H, GPT35
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	Chile Chico (Puerto)	Cochrane	GPT34H, GPT34P, GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT81P
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	Cochrane	Villa O'Higgins	GPT35, GPT36P, GPT37H, GPT37P, GPT81P
GPT36P	Rio Baker	Cochrane	Villa O'Higgins	GPT35, GPT36H, GPT37H, GPT37P, GPT81P, GPT82P, GPT91P, GPT92P
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	Villa O'Higgins	Candelario Mancillo	GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT37P, GPT38, GPT39, GPT40, GPT41
GPT37P	Lago O'Higgins	Villa O'Higgins	Candelario Mancillo	GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT37H, GPT38
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	Candelario Mancillo	Lago El Desierto (Gendarmeria)	GPT37H, GPT37P, GPT39
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	Lago El Desierto (Gendarmeria)	El Chalten	GPT37H, GPT39, GPT40, GPT41

Section Start, Finish and Adjacent Sections				
Section Designation		**Section Location**		**Adjacent Sections**
Code	**Name**	**Regular Start Point**	**Regular Finish Point**	
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	El Chalten	El Chalten	GPT37H, GPT39, GPT41
GPT41	Lago Viedma	El Chalten	Lago Viedma (Estancia Helsingfors)	GPT37H, GPT39, GPT40, GPT42
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	Lago Viedma (Estancia Helsingfors)	Lago Argentino (Estancia Cristina)	GPT41, GPT43
GPT43	Lago Argentina	Lago Argentino (Estancia Cristina)	Lago Argentino (Puerto Banderas)	GPT42, GPT44
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	Lago Argentino (Puerto Banderas)	Frontera (Hito III-40)	GPT43, GPT45
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	Frontera (Hito III-40)	Rio Serano (CONAF)	GPT44, GPT46
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	Rio Serano (CONAF)	Puerto Natales	GPT45, GPT47
GPT47	Seno Skyring	Puerto Natales	Rio Verde	GPT46, GPT48
GPT48	Seno Otway	Rio Verde	Punta Arenas	GPT47, GPT49, GPT60H, GPT65H
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	Punta Arenas	Fuerte Bulnes	GPT48, GPT50, GPT60H, GPT60P, GPT65H
GPT50	Cabo Froward	Fuerte Bulnes	Cabo Forward	GPT49, GPT60P
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	Punta Arenas	Porvenir	GPT48, GPT49, GPT61
GPT60P	Estrecho de Magellanes	Fuerte Bulnes	Camaron	GPT49, GPT50, GPT61, GPT62
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	Porvenir	Camaron	GPT60H, GPT60P, GPT62

Section Start, Finish and Adjacent Sections				
Section Designation		**Section Location**		**Adjacent Sections**
Code	**Name**	**Regular Start Point**	**Regular Finish Point**	
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	Camaron	Pampa Guanaco	GPT60P, GPT61, GPT63, GPT68
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	Pampa Guanaco	Lago Fagnano (Este)	GPT62, GPT64, GPT68
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	Lago Fagnano (Este)	Bahía Yendegaia	GPT63, GPT65H, GPT65P, GPT66, GPT69
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	Bahía Yendegaia	Puerto Williams	GPT48, GPT49, GPT60H, GPT64, GPT66, GPT69
GPT65P	Canal Beagle	Bahía Yendegaia	Puerto Navarino	GPT64, GPT65H, GPT66
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	Puerto Navarino	Puerto Williams	GPT65H, GPT65P, GPT67, GPT69
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	Puerto Williams	Puerto Williams	GPT66, GPT69
GPT68	Tolhuin	Pampa Guanaco	Tolhuin	GPT62, GPT63, GPT69
GPT69	Ushuaia	Tolhuin	Ushuaia	GPT64, GPT65H, GPT66, GPT67, GPT68
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	Aldea Escolar	Villa Futaleufú	GPT25H, GPT25P, GPT26, GPT71, GPT72
GPT71	Espolon	Villa Futaleufú	Puerto Cárdenas, Chaitén	GPT70, GPT72, GPT73P, GPT74P, GPT76
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	Villa Futaleufú	Palena	GPT26, GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT70, GPT71, GPT73P
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	Puerto Cárdenas	Santa Lucía	GPT71, GPT72, GPT74P, GPT75P
GPT74P	Rio Yelcho	Puerto Cárdenas	Chaitén	GPT71, GPT73P, GPT76

Section Start, Finish and Adjacent Sections				
Section Designation		**Section Location**		**Adjacent Sections**
Code	**Name**	**Regular Start Point**	**Regular Finish Point**	
GPT75P	Rio Frio	Santa Lucía	Río Palena (La Junta)	GPT27H, GPT28P, GPT30P, GPT27P, GPT73P
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	Chaitén	Caleta Gonzalo	GPT71, GPT74P, GPT77
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	Caleta Gonzalo	Hornopirén	GPT76, GPT78H
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	Hornopirén	Cochamó	GPT21, GPT22, GPT77
GPT78P	Estuario Reloncavi	Hornopirén	Cochamó	GPT33H, GPT80P, GPT90P, GPT91P
GPT80P	Glaciar Exploradores	Bahia Exploradores	Puente Rio Leones	GPT78P, GPT81P
GPT81P	Glaciar Leones	Puente Rio Leones	Puerto Bertrand	GPT35, GPT36H, GPT36P, GPT82P
GPT82P	Aysen Glacier Trail	Puerto Bertrand	Cochrane	GPT36P, GPT81P
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	Puerto Chacabuco	Bahia Exploradores	GPT29P, GPT31P, GPT78P, GPT91P
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	Bahia Exploradores	Caleta Tortel	GPT36P, GPT78P, GPT90P, GPT92P
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	Caleta Tortel	Caleta Tortel	GPT36P, GPT91P
HA	Huella Andina	-	-	-

Table 171: Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence

3.11.4 Hiking Travel Direction

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment to Hiking
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	↓	Both ↓↑	A locked gate was installed at km 12 primarily to stop vehicles. / In summer possibly no reliable water source from km 11 to km 37.
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	↓	Both ↓↑	In spring check the remaining snow cover on Sentinel Playground. / In summer this section becomes rather dry. Last reliable water at bridge at km 64 or puesto at km 73. / When entering mining facility hikers get escorted out to the main gate.
GPT03	Rios Claros	↓	Both ↓↑	If river at km 48 not safely fordable take variant D detour to bridge.
GPT04	Alto Huemul	↓	Both ↓↑	Hikers may not be welcome in the exclusive community "Sierra de Belavista" therefore avoid Option 1.
GPT05	Rio Colorado	↓	Both ↓↑	The glacier fed river Rio Negro at km 51 may not be safely fordable during snow melt and hot summers. / Bridge over Rio Colorado (Puente Las Yeguas) is often destroyed in spring. Check recent reports on Wikiexplora and ask locals. If unsafe to cross take variant C and D that results in a 1 to 2-day detour.
GPT06	Descabezado	↓	Both ↓↑	For northbound entry into Central Hidroeléctrica Cipreses a permit must be prearranged that is not given to solo hikers. Try email rene.gallardo@enel.com or call +56712247090. For southbound exit no such permit is essential.
GPT07	Laguna Dial	↓	Both ↓↑	Several rivers normally become fordable during December.

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment to Hiking
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	↓	Both ↓↑	Several rivers normally become fordable during late December.
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	↓	Both ↓↑	No water from km 14 to km 33 except if detouring to Laguna Liay.
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	↓	Both ↓↑	Decent from pass at km 27 was described as difficult in particular if leaving the bottom of the gorge and seeking to walk higher up.
GPT12	Rio Rahue	↓	Both ↓↑	Take low route Option 1 in poor or instable weather.
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	↓	Both ↓↑	Trail from km 10 to km 14 may be overgrown.
GPT15	Curarrehue	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	↓	Both ↓↑	In poor or instable weather the exposed volcanic plateau from km 27 to km 42 should be avoided.
GPT17H	Liquine	↓	Both ↓↑	Route became partly overgrown.
GPT17P	Neltume	↓	None	Not feasible.
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	↓	Both ↓↑	From hiking km 64 to km 75 the route is overgrown. / Regular hiking route avoids right-of-way conflicts that are frequent on other routes. / Option 2 is better maintained but should only be used to exit this section in case of an emergency due to right-of-way conflicts.
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	↓	Both ↓↑	In poor or instable weather the exposed volcanic plateau from km 55 to km 74 should be avoided. / Option 6 is an emergency descent only in case of volcanic activity or injury.

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment to Hiking
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	↓	Both ↓↑	Significant parts of the minor road from km 3 to km 17 and the trail from km 28 to km 35 are poorly maintained and became overgrown.
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT22	Cochamo	↑ and ↓	Both ↓↑	Flip-Flop recommended
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimey	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT26	Carrenleufu	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT27H	Lago Palena	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT27P	Alto Rio Palena	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT28H	La Tapera	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT28P	Bajo Rio Palena	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	↑ and ↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT30H	Coyhaique	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	↑	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	↓	None	Hiking not feasible

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment to Hiking
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT33H	Torres de Avellano	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT33P	Rio Ibanez	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	↑	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT36P	Rio Baker	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	↓	Both ↓↑	Circuit and Ferry
GPT37P	Lago O'Higgins	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	↓	Both ↓↑	Circuit
GPT41	Lago Viedma	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT43	Lago Argentina	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	↓	Both ↓↑	-

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment to Hiking
GPT47	Seno Skyring	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT48	Seno Otway	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT50	Cabo Froward	↓	Both ↓↑	Circuit
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	→	Both ↓↑	-
GPT60P	Estrecho de Magellanes	→	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT65P	Canal Beagle	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	→	Both ←→	-
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	↓	Both ↓↑	Circuit
GPT68	Tolhuin	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT69	Ushuaia	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	←	Both ←→	-
GPT71	Espolon	←	Both ←→	-
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	↓	Both ↓↑	-

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment to Hiking
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT74P	Rio Yelcho	←	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT75P	Rio Frio	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	↑	Both ↓↑	↑ Recommended to facilitate boat transfer
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	↑	Both ↓↑	Ferry
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	↑	Both ↓↑	-
GPT78P	Estuario Reloncavi	↑	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT80P	Glaciar Exploradores	↑ and ↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT81P	Glaciar Leones	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT82P	Aysen Glacier Trail	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
HA	Huella Andina	↓	Both ↓↑	-

Table 172: Hiking Travel Direction

3.11.5 Packrafting Travel Direction

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT03	Rios Claros	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT04	Alto Huemul	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT05	Rio Colorado	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT06	Descabezado	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	↑ Permit required
GPT07	Laguna Dial	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	A packraft may be deployed on Laguna Dial but the additional weight may not justify the benefit.
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	A packraft may be deployed on Laguna de las Lajas e.g. to bypass the exposed ridge on the lake. Caution is required with the occasional strong wind and the low water temperatures.
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	A packraft may be deployed on Laguna de las Lajas e.g. when crossing between the western and

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
						eastern shore. Caution is required with the occasional strong wind and the low water temperatures.
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT12	Rio Rahue	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT15	Curarrehue	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT17H	Liquine	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT17P	Neltume	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	In late summer Rio Cuacua may become shallow on first few km. / On Lago Neltume the predominant wind direction is NE against the southbound travel direction. Crossing early in the morning or late in the evening may be preferable.

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	On Lago Pirihueico the predominant wind direction is SE in southbound travel direction.
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT22	Cochamo	↑ and ↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	Flip-Flop recommended
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Useful	↓ More packraft use
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Useful	↓ More packraft use
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimey	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ Preferable
GPT26	Carrenleufu	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT27H	Lago Palena	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT27P	Alto Rio Palena	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT28H	La Tapera	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT28P	Bajo Rio Palena	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	↑ and ↓	Only ↑	↓ Only Partially Feasible	↑ Required	Flip-Flop recommended
GPT30H	Coyhaique	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ More packraft use
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ Recommended, ↑ Exploration option
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT33H	Torres de Avellano	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT33P	Rio Ibanez	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Ferry Only	↑ Ferry Only	-
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ Preferable due to predominant wind direction / Demanding lake crossing with difficult to predict wind
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	↓ More lake packrafting, ↑ More river packrafting
GPT36P	Rio Baker	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT37P	Lago O'Higgins	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	Demanding lake crossing with difficult to predict wind
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Deployable	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	↓	Return	↓↑ Only Burden	↓↑ Only Burden	-
GPT41	Lago Viedma	↓	-	↓ Questionable	↑ Questionable	↓ ↑ Questionable if packrafting of Lago Viedma is advisable / ↓ Southbound seams preferable
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT43	Lago Argentina	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Ferry Only	↑ Ferry Only	-
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Deployable	↓ More packraft use, ↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT47	Seno Skyring	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting / ↓ Southbound seams preferable

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
GPT48	Seno Otway	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT50	Cabo Froward	↓	Return	↓ ↑ Useful	↓ ↑ Useful	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	→	Both ↓↑	→ Ferry Only	← Ferry Only	-
GPT60P	Estrecho de Magellanes	→	Both ↓↑	→ Questionable	← Questionable	↓ ↑ Questionable if packrafting of Estrecho de Magellanes is advisable
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	↓	Both ↓↑	→ Ferry Only	← Ferry Only	-
GPT65P	Canal Beagle	↓	Both ↓↑	→ Questionable	← Questionable	↓ ↑ Questionable if packrafting of Canal Beagle is advisable / ↓ Southbound seams preferable

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	→	Both ↓↑	→ Useful	← Deployable	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	↓	Both ↓↑	↓↑ Deployable	↓↑ Deployable	-
GPT68	Tolhuin	↓	Return	↓ Very Useful	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT69	Ushuaia	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Useful	↓ ↑ Wind often impedes fjord packrafting
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	←	Both ←→	← Very Useful	→ Only Burden	-
GPT71	Espolon	←	Both ←→	← Useful	→ Useful	-
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ Preferable due to predominant wind direction
GPT74P	Rio Yelcho	←	Only ←	← Required	→ Not Possible	-
GPT75P	Rio Frio	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Only Burden	↓ More packraft use, ↑ Road walking only
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ Preferable due preceding section GPT74P Rio Yelcho and predominant wind direction

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment to Packrafting
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ Preferable due preceding section GPT74P Rio Yelcho and predominant wind direction
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT78P	Estuario Reloncavi	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ Preferable due to predominant wind direction
GPT80P	Glaciar Exploradores	↑ and ↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT81P	Glaciar Leones	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT82P	Aysen Glacier Trail	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	↓	Return	↑ ↓ Required	↑ ↓ Required	Circuit
HA	Huella Andina	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-

Table 173: Packrafting Travel Direction

3.11.6 Section Travel Timing Recommendation

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	**Name**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT03	Rios Claros	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT04	Alto Huemul	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT05	Rio Colorado	No	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	No
GPT06	Descabezado	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT07	Laguna Dial	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT12	Rio Rahue	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT15	Curarrehue	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT17H	Liquine	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT17P	Neltume	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	Name	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT22	Cochamo	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimey	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT26	Carrenleufu	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT27H	Lago Palena	No	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT27P	Alto Rio Palena	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT28H	La Tapera	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT28P	Bajo Rio Palena	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT30H	Coyhaique	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT33H	Torres de Avellano	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	Name	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
GPT33P	Rio Ibanez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT36P	Rio Baker	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT37P	Lago O'Higgins	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT41	Lago Viedma	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT43	Lago Argentina	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT47	Seno Skyring	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT48	Seno Otway	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	Name	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
GPT50	Cabo Froward	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT60P	Estrecho de Magellanes	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT65P	Canal Beagle	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT68	Tolhuin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT69	Ushuaia	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT71	Espolon	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT74P	Rio Yelcho	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT75P	Rio Frio	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	**Name**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT78P	Estuario Reloncavi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT80P	Glaciar Exploradores	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT81P	Glaciar Leones	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT82P	Aysen Glacier Trail	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.

Table 174: Section Travel Timing Recommendation

3.11.7 Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Hiking Time

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time							
Section Designation		Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route					
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Hiking Time
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.7 km	39.7 km	0.0 km	2223 m↑	1900 m↓	14 h
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	105.9 km	105.9 km	0.0 km	5372 m↑	5614 m↓	38 h
GPT03	Rios Claros	83.7 km	83.7 km	0.0 km	4559 m↑	4827 m↓	31 h
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.7 km	60.7 km	0.0 km	3045 m↑	2889 m↓	21 h
GPT05	Rio Colorado	112.1 km	112.1 km	0.0 km	5752 m↑	5331 m↓	40 h
GPT06	Descabezado	86.7 km	86.7 km	0.0 km	4233 m↑	4342 m↓	30 h
GPT07	Laguna Dial	155.3 km	155.3 km	0.0 km	5410 m↑	5660 m↓	49 h
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	139.4 km	139.4 km	0.0 km	6292 m↑	6197 m↓	47 h
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	61.5 km	61.5 km	0.0 km	2326 m↑	2207 m↓	20 h
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	47.5 km	47.5 km	0.0 km	1592 m↑	1582 m↓	14 h
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	38.8 km	38.8 km	0.0 km	1929 m↑	1695 m↓	14 h
GPT12	Rio Rahue	104.2 km	104.2 km	0.0 km	4571 m↑	4728 m↓	36 h
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	38.6 km	38.6 km	0.0 km	781 m↑	658 m↓	10 h
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	60.0 km	60.0 km	0.0 km	1827 m↑	2150 m↓	17 h
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.0 km	51.0 km	0.0 km	1473 m↑	1921 m↓	15 h
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	67.1 km	67.1 km	0.0 km	2355 m↑	2522 m↓	20 h
GPT17H	Liquine	35.6 km	35.6 km	0.0 km	2034 m↑	1650 m↓	13 h
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	96.6 km	71.5 km	25.1 km	2568 m↑	3080 m↓	22 h

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time							
Section Designation		Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route					
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Hiking Time
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	83.4 km	83.4 km	0.0 km	4083 m↑	3810 m↓	29 h
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	52.0 km	52.0 km	0.0 km	2000 m↑	2234 m↓	17 h
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	88.6 km	66.6 km	21.9 km	3161 m↑	3254 m↓	23 h
GPT22	Cochamo	162.2 km	160.4 km	1.8 km	6144 m↑	6086 m↓	52 h
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	93.4 km	93.4 km	0.0 km	3974 m↑	3628 m↓	34 h
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	66.8 km	66.8 km	0.0 km	2775 m↑	2780 m↓	22 h
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	39.0 km	39.0 km	0.0 km	1042 m↑	1225 m↓	11 h
GPT26	Carrenleufu	90.1 km	90.1 km	0.0 km	2210 m↑	2313 m↓	25 h
GPT27H	Lago Palena	101.3 km	101.3 km	0.0 km	3937 m↑	3846 m↓	32 h
GPT28H	La Tapera	72.5 km	72.5 km	0.0 km	2448 m↑	2243 m↓	21 h
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	80.2 km	80.2 km	0.0 km	1181 m↑	1457 m↓	19 h
GPT30H	Coyhaique	130.3 km	130.3 km	0.0 km	4790 m↑	4777 m↓	42 h
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	36.5 km	36.5 km	0.0 km	537 m↑	519 m↓	9 h
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	66.8 km	66.8 km	0.0 km	3197 m↑	3167 m↓	23 h
GPT33H	Torres de Avellano	156.5 km	156.5 km	0.0 km	5589 m↑	5719 m↓	48 h
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	35.4 km	0.0 km	35.4 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	153.8 km	153.8 km	0.0 km	5477 m↑	5538 m↓	48 h
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	192.5 km	192.5 km	0.0 km	5475 m↑	5347 m↓	55 h
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	175.1 km	124.9 km	50.2 km	6351 m↑	6363 m↓	45 h

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time							
Section Designation		**Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route**					
Code	**Name**	**Total Distance incl. Ferry**	**Hiking Distance**	**Ferry Distance**	**Ascent**	**Descent**	**Hiking Time**
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	48.0 km	48.0 km	0.0 km	2202 m↑	1961 m↓	16 h
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	59.4 km	59.4 km	0.0 km	1675 m↑	1785 m↓	17 h
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.9 km	64.9 km	0.0 km	2791 m↑	2791 m↓	22 h
GPT41	Lago Viedma	178.4 km	178.4 km	0.0 km	720 m↑	842 m↓	38 h
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	48.1 km	48.1 km	0.0 km	1965 m↑	2055 m↓	17 h
GPT43	Lago Argentina	50.2 km	0.0 km	50.2 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	92.7 km	92.7 km	0.0 km	1142 m↑	1109 m↓	24 h
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	191.5 km	191.5 km	0.0 km	6738 m↑	6851 m↓	58 h
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	113.6 km	113.6 km	0.0 km	3427 m↑	3429 m↓	34 h
GPT47	Seno Skyring	191.4 km	191.4 km	0.0 km	1492 m↑	1503 m↓	45 h
GPT48	Seno Otway	88.8 km	88.8 km	0.0 km	672 m↑	661 m↓	20 h
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	56.8 km	56.8 km	0.0 km	389 m↑	375 m↓	12 h
GPT50	Cabo Froward	92.6 km	92.6 km	0.0 km	2147 m↑	2161 m↓	26 h
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	48.4 km	6.6 km	41.8 km	39 m↑	27 m↓	1 h
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	126.6 km	126.6 km	0.0 km	1174 m↑	1190 m↓	29 h
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	97.0 km	97.0 km	0.0 km	760 m↑	612 m↓	23 h
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	86.5 km	86.5 km	0.0 km	2301 m↑	2427 m↓	24 h
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	73.1 km	73.1 km	0.0 km	2114 m↑	2145 m↓	34 h

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time							
Section Designation		**Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route**					
Code	**Name**	**Total Distance incl. Ferry**	**Hiking Distance**	**Ferry Distance**	**Ascent**	**Descent**	**Hiking Time**
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	574.6 km	0.0 km	574.6 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	54.2 km	54.2 km	0.0 km	1097 m↑	1091 m↓	14 h
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	66.3 km	66.3 km	0.0 km	2850 m↑	2851 m↓	22 h
GPT68	Tolhuin	183.4 km	183.4 km	0.0 km	2887 m↑	2930 m↓	49 h
GPT69	Ushuaia	152.6 km	152.6 km	0.0 km	3210 m↑	3323 m↓	41 h
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	37.8 km	37.8 km	0.0 km	368 m↑	378 m↓	9 h
GPT71	Espolon	117.9 km	117.9 km	0.0 km	3516 m↑	3847 m↓	34 h
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	100.0 km	99.9 km	0.1 km	2701 m↑	2788 m↓	28 h
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	77.6 km	67.8 km	9.8 km	734 m↑	749 m↓	16 h
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	78.5 km	11.2 km	67.3 km	161 m↑	150 m↓	3 h
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	82.8 km	82.8 km	0.0 km	2698 m↑	2671 m↓	24 h

Table 175: Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time

3.11.8 Hiking Route Composition

Hiking Route Composition										
Section Designation		Total	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.7 km	-	-	3.7 km	22.1 km	13.9 km	-	-	-
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	105.9 km	0.8 km	5.9 km	50.2 km	44.3 km	4.6 km	-	(0.4 km)	-
GPT03	Rios Claros	83.7 km	0.8 km	2.7 km	70.3 km	8.9 km	1.0 km	-	-	-
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.7 km	-	3.3 km	30.8 km	26.7 km	-	-	-	-
GPT05	Rio Colorado	112.1 km	-	24.8 km	68.0 km	19.3 km	-	-	-	-
GPT06	Descabezado	86.7 km	-	-	72.3 km	14.4 km	-	-	-	-
GPT07	Laguna Dial	155.3 km	-	12.0 km	126.6 km	5.4 km	11.3 km	-	-	-
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	139.4 km	-	10.1 km	90.0 km	30.6 km	8.7 km	-	-	-
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	61.5 km	-	15.0 km	23.0 km	13.3 km	10.3 km	-	-	-
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	47.5 km	-	-	31.0 km	14.2 km	2.4 km	-	-	-
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	38.8 km	-	4.1 km	29.0 km	5.8 km	-	-	-	-
GPT12	Rio Rahue	104.2 km	-	34.3 km	57.3 km	12.1 km	0.5 km	-	-	-
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	38.6 km	-	1.1 km	3.9 km	29.8 km	3.8 km	-	-	-
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	60.0 km	-	-	5.8 km	49.0 km	5.2 km	-	-	-
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.0 km	-	-	9.3 km	32.2 km	9.5 km	-	-	-
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	67.1 km	-	5.9 km	14.3 km	44.9 km	2.0 km	-	-	-
GPT17H	Liquine	35.6 km	-	-	23.5 km	8.2 km	3.8 km	-	-	-
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	71.5 km	-	-	6.3 km	64.3 km	0.9 km	(25.1 km)	-	-

Hiking Route Composition										
Section Designation		Total	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	83.4 km	-	20.1 km	5.4 km	55.7 km	2.2 km	-	-	-
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	52.0 km	-	12.3 km	12.1 km	24.6 km	3.0 km	-	-	-
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	66.6 km	-	9.0 km	26.4 km	16.2 km	15.0 km	(21.9 km)	-	-
GPT22	Cochamo	160.4 km	-	2.2 km	137.8 km	10.8 km	9.6 km	(1.8 km)	-	-
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	93.4 km	4.1 km	4.2 km	53.6 km	20.1 km	11.6 km	-	-	(12.2 km)
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	66.8 km	-	12.5 km	41.1 km	0.4 km	12.8 km	-	(2.4 km)	-
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	39.0 km	-	-	15.5 km	23.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT26	Carrenleufu	90.1 km	-	2.2 km	22.0 km	54.3 km	11.7 km	-	-	-
GPT27H	Lago Palena	101.3 km	-	3.6 km	66.5 km	31.3 km	-	-	-	-
GPT28H	La Tapera	72.5 km	-	-	-	72.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	80.2 km	-	-	-	-	80.2 km	-	-	-
GPT30H	Coyhaique	130.3 km	2.2 km	16.4 km	21.6 km	41.3 km	48.9 km	-	(2.4 km)	-
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	36.5 km	-	-	-	20.6 km	15.9 km	-	-	-
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	66.8 km	0.3 km	11.0 km	23.1 km	32.4 km	-	-	-	-
GPT33H	Torres de Avellano	156.5 km	0.4 km	14.4 km	44.9 km	93.0 km	3.8 km	-	-	-
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	-	-	-	-	-	-	(35.4 km)	-	-
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	153.8 km	-	32.3 km	66.2 km	44.3 km	11.2 km	-	-	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	192.5 km	-	5.6 km	83.1 km	69.2 km	34.6 km	-	-	-
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	124.9 km	-	25.5 km	90.4 km	1.4 km	7.6 km	(50.2 km)	(4.5 km)	-

Hiking Route Composition										
Section Designation		Total	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	48.0 km	-	-	41.5 km	6.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	59.4 km	-	-	37.7 km	-	21.7 km	-	-	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.9 km	-	16.2 km	43.8 km	1.5 km	3.4 km	-	-	-
GPT41	Lago Viedma	178.4 km	-	-	-	70.4 km	108.0 km	-	-	-
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	48.1 km	-	24.9 km	18.7 km	4.6 km	-	-	(30.7 km)	-
GPT43	Lago Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	(50.2 km)	-	-
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	92.7 km	-	43.6 km	20.7 km	14.9 km	13.5 km	-	-	-
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	191.5 km	-	9.9 km	67.7 km	108.8 km	5.2 km	-	-	-
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	113.6 km	-	11.4 km	55.6 km	41.5 km	5.1 km	-	-	-
GPT47	Seno Skyring	191.4 km	-	58.2 km	3.5 km	127.8 km	1.9 km	-	(4.1 km)	(28.9 km)
GPT48	Seno Otway	88.8 km	-	14.2 km	-	74.7 km	-	-	-	-
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	56.8 km	-	1.9 km	-	3.8 km	51.2 km	-	-	-
GPT50	Cabo Froward	92.6 km	-	-	73.3 km	19.2 km	-	-	-	-
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	6.6 km	-	-	-	-	6.6 km	(41.8 km)	-	-
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	126.6 km	-	10.3 km	-	48.6 km	67.7 km	-	-	-
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	97.0 km	-	23.0 km	1.9 km	45.6 km	26.6 km	-	-	-
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	86.5 km	-	9.5 km	1.9 km	75.1 km	-	-	-	-
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	73.1 km	15.7 km	22.6 km	0.9 km	33.9 km	-	-	(26.9 km)	(39.2 km)

Hiking Route Composition										
Section Designation		Total	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	(574.6 km)	-	-
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	54.2 km	-	-	-	54.2 km	-	-	-	-
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	66.3 km	-	-	56.2 km	10.1 km	-	-	-	-
GPT68	Tolhuin	183.4 km	-	64.7 km	41.4 km	61.7 km	15.7 km	-	(2.3 km)	-
GPT69	Ushuaia	152.6 km	-	14.3 km	50.9 km	69.6 km	17.9 km	-	(1.1 km)	-
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	37.8 km	-	-	-	11.6 km	26.2 km	-	-	-
GPT71	Espolon	117.9 km	-	-	48.9 km	43.4 km	25.6 km	-	-	-
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	99.9 km	-	-	21.4 km	43.2 km	35.2 km	(0.1 km)	(7.0 km)	-
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	67.8 km	-	-	20.6 km	37.1 km	10.1 km	(9.8 km)	-	-
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	11.2 km	-	-	-	1.0 km	10.2 km	(67.3 km)	-	-
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	82.8 km	-	2.1 km	28.4 km	22.2 km	30.2 km	-	-	-

Table 176: Hiking Route Composition

3.11.9 Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Moving Time

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.7 km	0.0%	0.0 km	39.7 km	0.0 km	2223 m↑	1900 m↓	14 h
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	105.9 km	0.0%	0.0 km	105.9 km	0.0 km	5372 m↑	5614 m↓	38 h
GPT03	Rios Claros	83.7 km	0.0%	0.0 km	83.7 km	0.0 km	4559 m↑	4827 m↓	31 h
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.7 km	0.0%	0.0 km	60.7 km	0.0 km	3045 m↑	2889 m↓	21 h
GPT05	Rio Colorado	112.1 km	0.0%	0.0 km	112.1 km	0.0 km	5752 m↑	5331 m↓	40 h
GPT06	Descabezado	86.7 km	0.0%	0.0 km	86.7 km	0.0 km	4233 m↑	4342 m↓	30 h
GPT07	Laguna Dial	153.0 km	6.1%	9.3 km	143.7 km	0.0 km	4764 m↑	5011 m↓	47 h
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	133.7 km	17.1%	22.9 km	110.8 km	0.0 km	4726 m↑	4627 m↓	43 h
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	68.4 km	17.0%	11.6 km	56.8 km	0.0 km	1802 m↑	1683 m↓	20 h
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	47.5 km	0.0%	0.0 km	47.5 km	0.0 km	1592 m↑	1582 m↓	14 h
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	38.8 km	0.0%	0.0 km	38.8 km	0.0 km	1929 m↑	1695 m↓	14 h
GPT12	Rio Rahue	103.8 km	1.1%	1.1 km	102.7 km	0.0 km	4511 m↑	4672 m↓	36 h
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	31.0 km	15.8%	4.9 km	26.1 km	0.0 km	411 m↑	286 m↓	8 h
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	61.3 km	9.9%	6.1 km	55.2 km	0.0 km	1700 m↑	2027 m↓	18 h
GPT15	Curarrehue	50.9 km	3.0%	1.5 km	49.4 km	0.0 km	1424 m↑	1889 m↓	15 h
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	66.5 km	0.0%	0.0 km	66.5 km	0.0 km	2231 m↑	2388 m↓	20 h
GPT17P	Neltume	39.5 km	60.8%	24.0 km	15.5 km	0.0 km	595 m↑	222 m↓	10 h

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	87.0 km	25.8%	22.4 km	64.6 km	0.0 km	2345 m↑	2867 m↓	26 h
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	70.1 km	13.8%	9.6 km	60.5 km	0.0 km	2822 m↑	2543 m↓	23 h
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	51.2 km	20.5%	10.5 km	40.7 km	0.0 km	1655 m↑	1894 m↓	17 h
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	93.8 km	51.1%	48.0 km	45.8 km	0.0 km	1875 m↑	1976 m↓	28 h
GPT22	Cochamo	136.5 km	81.4%	111.1 km	25.4 km	0.0 km	1057 m↑	1080 m↓	35 h
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	79.6 km	50.6%	40.3 km	39.3 km	0.0 km	2158 m↑	1816 m↓	27 h
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	51.3 km	97.5%	50.1 km	1.3 km	0.0 km	2 m↑	29 m↓	13 h
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	61.3 km	35.5%	21.8 km	39.5 km	0.0 km	1063 m↑	1230 m↓	17 h
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimey	47.1 km	25.0%	11.8 km	35.3 km	0.0 km	1114 m↑	1254 m↓	16 h
GPT26	Carrenleufu	90.3 km	6.9%	6.3 km	84.0 km	0.0 km	2214 m↑	2317 m↓	25 h
GPT27P	Alto Rio Palena	103.4 km	97.8%	101.1 km	2.3 km	0.0 km	23 m↑	241 m↓	21 h
GPT28P	Bajo Rio Palena	247.9 km	98.5%	77.4 km	1.2 km	169.2 km	11 m↑	58 m↓	17 h
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	191.6 km	78.7%	150.8 km	40.8 km	0.0 km	485 m↑	1043 m↓	43 h
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	338.3 km	90.3%	152.7 km	16.4 km	169.2 km	309 m↑	314 m↓	41 h
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	263.3 km	49.3%	45.7 km	46.9 km	170.7 km	1115 m↑	781 m↓	25 h
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	89.5 km	19.6%	17.5 km	72.0 km	0.0 km	3262 m↑	3223 m↓	30 h
GPT33P	Rio Ibanez	34.3 km	81.0%	27.7 km	6.5 km	0.0 km	68 m↑	202 m↓	7 h
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	35.4 km	0.0%	0.0 km	0.0 km	35.4 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	177.8 km	37.3%	39.9 km	67.0 km	70.9 km	1511 m↑	1521 m↓	29 h
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	157.3 km	25.8%	40.6 km	116.7 km	0.0 km	3305 m↑	3363 m↓	44 h
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	281.2 km	51.2%	143.9 km	137.3 km	0.0 km	4367 m↑	4264 m↓	79 h
GPT36P	Rio Baker	295.8 km	74.4%	219.9 km	75.8 km	0.0 km	1641 m↑	1554 m↓	68 h
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	173.5 km	60.7%	74.9 km	48.5 km	50.2 km	2532 m↑	2534 m↓	39 h
GPT37P	Lago O'Higgins	71.7 km	55.2%	39.6 km	32.1 km	0.0 km	1668 m↑	1681 m↓	23 h
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	71.3 km	6.8%	4.9 km	66.4 km	0.0 km	3295 m↑	2938 m↓	25 h
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	64.6 km	44.7%	28.9 km	35.8 km	0.0 km	927 m↑	1042 m↓	17 h
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.9 km	0.0%	0.0 km	64.9 km	0.0 km	2791 m↑	2791 m↓	22 h
GPT41	Lago Viedma	178.4 km	0.0%	0.0 km	178.4 km	0.0 km	720 m↑	842 m↓	38 h
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	48.1 km	0.0%	0.0 km	48.1 km	0.0 km	1965 m↑	2055 m↓	17 h
GPT43	Lago Argentina	50.2 km	0.0%	0.0 km	0.0 km	50.2 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	92.7 km	0.0%	0.0 km	92.7 km	0.0 km	1142 m↑	1109 m↓	24 h
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	191.5 km	0.0%	0.0 km	191.5 km	0.0 km	6738 m↑	6851 m↓	58 h
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	124.2 km	32.9%	40.9 km	83.3 km	0.0 km	2543 m↑	2555 m↓	33 h
GPT47	Seno Skyring	191.4 km	0.0%	0.0 km	191.4 km	0.0 km	1492 m↑	1503 m↓	45 h
GPT48	Seno Otway	88.8 km	0.0%	0.0 km	88.8 km	0.0 km	672 m↑	661 m↓	20 h
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	56.8 km	0.0%	0.0 km	56.8 km	0.0 km	389 m↑	375 m↓	12 h

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT50	Cabo Froward	92.6 km	0.0%	0.0 km	92.6 km	0.0 km	2147 m↑	2161 m↓	26 h
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	48.4 km	0.0%	0.0 km	6.6 km	41.8 km	39 m↑	27 m↓	1 h
GPT60P	Estrecho de Magellanes	130.5 km	83.0%	108.3 km	22.2 km	0.0 km	421 m↑	429 m↓	37 h
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	126.6 km	0.0%	0.0 km	126.6 km	0.0 km	1174 m↑	1190 m↓	29 h
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	60.6 km	0.0%	0.0 km	60.6 km	0.0 km	576 m↑	457 m↓	14 h
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	86.5 km	0.0%	0.0 km	86.5 km	0.0 km	2301 m↑	2427 m↓	24 h
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	65.5 km	12.1%	7.9 km	57.6 km	0.0 km	1798 m↑	1833 m↓	32 h
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	574.6 km	0.0%	0.0 km	0.0 km	574.6 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h
GPT65P	Canal Beagle	41.8 km	100.0%	41.8 km	0.0 km	0.0 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	12 h
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	51.9 km	100.0%	51.9 km	0.0 km	0.0 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	15 h
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	87.7 km	17.0%	14.9 km	72.8 km	0.0 km	2973 m↑	2976 m↓	28 h
GPT68	Tolhuin	328.5 km	66.5%	218.6 km	109.9 km	0.0 km	1071 m↑	1080 m↓	73 h
GPT69	Ushuaia	152.6 km	0.0%	0.0 km	152.6 km	0.0 km	3210 m↑	3323 m↓	41 h
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	39.6 km	65.2%	25.8 km	13.8 km	0.0 km	164 m↑	176 m↓	8 h
GPT71	Espolon	120.1 km	10.4%	12.5 km	107.7 km	0.0 km	2615 m↑	2909 m↓	33 h
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	100.0 km	0.0%	0.0 km	99.9 km	0.1 km	2701 m↑	2788 m↓	28 h
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	47.0 km	73.7%	34.7 km	12.3 km	0.0 km	323 m↑	142 m↓	13 h

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT74P	Rio Yelcho	51.4 km	100.0%	51.4 km	0.0 km	0.0 km	0 m↑	53 m↓	11 h
GPT75P	Rio Frio	80.8 km	93.9%	75.9 km	4.9 km	0.0 km	35 m↑	238 m↓	16 h
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	77.0 km	100.0%	77.0 km	0.0 km	0.0 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	22 h
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	102.1 km	89.4%	91.3 km	10.8 km	0.0 km	159 m↑	142 m↓	29 h
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	82.8 km	0.0%	0.0 km	82.8 km	0.0 km	2698 m↑	2671 m↓	24 h
GPT78P	Estuario Reloncavi	126.0 km	99.4%	125.3 km	0.7 km	0.0 km	32 m↑	10 m↓	36 h
GPT80P	Glaciar Exploradores	109.1 km	63.8%	69.6 km	39.4 km	0.0 km	1017 m↑	1117 m↓	37 h
GPT81P	Glaciar Leones	116.3 km	71.5%	83.1 km	33.2 km	0.0 km	383 m↑	387 m↓	30 h
GPT82P	Aysen Glacier Trail	140.1 km	40.0%	55.9 km	83.9 km	0.2 km	1927 m↑	1971 m↓	43 h
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	161.1 km	41.5%	66.9 km	94.2 km	0.0 km	825 m↑	828 m↓	43 h
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	312.2 km	85.1%	265.6 km	46.6 km	0.0 km	340 m↑	387 m↓	93 h
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	92.2 km	89.4%	82.5 km	9.7 km	0.0 km	63 m↑	60 m↓	24 h

Table 177: Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time

3.11.10 Packrafting Route Composition

Packrafting Route Composition												
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.7 km	-	-	-	-	-	3.7 km	22.1 km	13.9 km	-	-	-
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	105.9 km	-	-	-	0.8 km	5.9 km	50.2 km	44.3 km	4.6 km	-	(0.4 km)	-
GPT03	Rios Claros	83.7 km	-	-	-	0.8 km	2.7 km	70.3 km	8.9 km	1.0 km	-	-	-
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.7 km	-	-	-	-	3.3 km	30.8 km	26.7 km	-	-	-	-
GPT05	Rio Colorado	112.1 km	-	-	-	-	24.8 km	68.0 km	19.3 km	-	-	-	-
GPT06	Descabezado	86.7 km	-	-	-	-	-	72.3 km	14.4 km	-	-	-	-
GPT07	Laguna Dial	153.0 km	-	9.3 km	-	-	12.3 km	114.8 km	5.4 km	11.3 km	-	-	-
GPT08	Volcan Chillan	133.7 km	-	22.9 km	-	-	5.7 km	67.6 km	28.0 km	9.5 km	-	-	-
GPT09	Volcan Antuco	68.4 km	-	11.6 km	-	-	10.0 km	21.6 km	14.3 km	10.9 km	-	-	-
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	47.5 km	-	-	-	-	-	31.0 km	14.2 km	2.4 km	-	-	-
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	38.8 km	-	-	-	-	4.1 km	29.0 km	5.8 km	-	-	-	-
GPT12	Rio Rahue	103.8 km	-	1.1 km	-	-	34.3 km	55.8 km	12.1 km	0.5 km	-	-	-
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	31.0 km	-	4.9 km	-	-	1.3 km	3.9 km	20.2 km	0.7 km	-	-	-
GPT14	Volcan Sollipulli	61.3 km	-	6.1 km	-	-	0.0 km	5.8 km	49.4 km	-	-	-	-
GPT15	Curarrehue	50.9 km	-	1.5 km	-	-	-	7.7 km	32.2 km	9.5 km	-	-	-
GPT16	Volcan Quetrupillan	66.5 km	-	-	-	-	5.9 km	14.3 km	44.3 km	2.0 km	-	-	-
GPT17P	Neltume	39.5 km	20.4 km	3.6 km	-	-	0.3 km	0.7 km	5.2 km	9.4 km	-	(1.2 km)	-
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	87.0 km	-	22.4 km	-	-	0.4 km	6.4 km	57.8 km	-	-	-	-
GPT19	Volcan Puyehue	70.1 km	-	9.6 km	-	-	18.9 km	5.4 km	34.0 km	2.2 km	-	-	-

Packrafting Route Composition												
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT20	Volcan Antillanca	51.2 km	-	10.5 km	-	-	12.7 km	10.9 km	14.1 km	3.0 km	-	-	-
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	93.8 km	2.8 km	33.8 km	11.4 km	-	0.7 km	27.0 km	16.2 km	2.0 km	-	-	-
GPT22	Cochamo	136.5 km	62.4 km	32.4 km	16.3 km	-	0.5 km	20.3 km	1.8 km	2.8 km	-	(1.9 km)	-
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	79.6 km	20.9 km	19.4 km	-	4.1 km	4.5 km	28.2 km	1.6 km	0.9 km	-	-	-
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	51.3 km	17.8 km	32.3 km	-	-	-	-	0.4 km	0.9 km	-	-	-
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	61.3 km	-	21.8 km	-	-	0.1 km	15.5 km	23.8 km	-	-	-	-
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimey	47.1 km	-	11.8 km	-	2.9 km	0.7 km	21.3 km	0.7 km	9.8 km	-	(5.9 km)	(22.0 km)
GPT26	Carrenleufu	90.3 km	6.3 km	-	-	-	2.2 km	22.0 km	45.4 km	14.4 km	-	-	-
GPT27P	Alto Rio Palena	103.4 km	101.1 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3 km	-	-	-
GPT28P	Bajo Rio Palena	78.6 km	67.6 km	-	9.8 km	-	-	-	1.2 km	-	(169.2 km)	-	-
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	191.6 km	127.0 km	16.3 km	7.5 km	1.4 km	3.9 km	0.8 km	24.6 km	10.2 km	-	-	(39.5 km)
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	169.1 km	82.8 km	10.6 km	59.3 km	-	0.2 km	-	1.8 km	14.3 km	(169.2 km)	-	-
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	92.6 km	5.5 km	40.2 km	-	0.4 km	0.7 km	0.6 km	40.9 km	4.3 km	(170.7 km)	-	-
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	89.5 km	-	17.5 km	-	1.4 km	4.3 km	21.8 km	44.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT33P	Rio Ibanez	34.3 km	27.7 km	-	-	-	1.9 km	-	2.2 km	2.4 km	-	-	-
GPT34H	Ferry Chile Chico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(35.4 km)	-	-
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	107.0 km	1.7 km	38.2 km	-	-	0.9 km	-	21.4 km	44.8 km	(70.9 km)	-	(4.3 km)
GPT35	Parque Patagonia	157.3 km	22.2 km	18.4 km	-	-	27.6 km	32.2 km	44.6 km	12.3 km	-	-	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	281.2 km	42.2 km	101.6 km	-	-	7.2 km	78.3 km	44.5 km	7.3 km	-	(0.5 km)	-
GPT36P	Rio Baker	295.8 km	165.9 km	9.7 km	44.3 km	-	-	3.7 km	1.6 km	70.6 km	-	(1.9 km)	(9.6 km)
GPT37H	Peninsula La Florida	123.3 km	2.5 km	72.4 km	-	-	14.8 km	29.6 km	0.8 km	3.3 km	(50.2 km)	(3.0 km)	-

Packrafting Route Composition												
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT37P	Lago O'Higgins	71.7 km	2.5 km	37.1 km	-	-	7.6 km	19.5 km	1.6 km	3.3 km	-	(1.5 km)	(5.5 km)
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	71.3 km	0.1 km	4.8 km	-	-	17.8 km	42.0 km	6.5 km	-	-	(2.0 km)	-
GPT39	Monte Fitzroy	64.6 km	18.2 km	10.7 km	-	-	0.2 km	26.1 km	-	9.4 km	-	-	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.9 km	-	-	-	-	16.2 km	43.8 km	1.5 km	3.4 km	-	-	-
GPT41	Lago Viedma	178.4 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.4 km	108.0 km	-	-	-
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	48.1 km	-	-	-	-	24.9 km	18.7 km	4.6 km	-	-	(30.7 km)	-
GPT43	Lago Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(50.2 km)	-	-
GPT44	Peninsula de Magellanes	92.7 km	-	-	-	-	43.6 km	20.7 km	14.9 km	13.5 km	-	-	-
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	191.5 km	-	-	-	-	9.9 km	67.7 km	108.8 km	5.2 km	-	-	-
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	124.2 km	40.9 km	-	-	-	11.9 km	28.3 km	38.1 km	5.0 km	-	-	-
GPT47	Seno Skyring	191.4 km	-	-	-	-	58.2 km	3.5 km	127.8 km	1.9 km	-	(4.1 km)	(28.9 km)
GPT48	Seno Otway	88.8 km	-	-	-	-	14.2 km	-	74.7 km	-	-	-	-
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	56.8 km	-	-	-	-	1.9 km	-	3.8 km	51.2 km	-	-	-
GPT50	Cabo Froward	92.6 km	-	-	-	-	-	73.3 km	19.2 km	-	-	-	-
GPT60H	Ferry Porvenir	6.6 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.6 km	(41.8 km)	-	-
GPT60P	Estrecho de Magellanes	130.5 km	-	-	108.3 km	-	-	0.5 km	21.7 km	-	-	-	(45.7 km)
GPT61	Bahia Inutil	126.6 km	-	-	-	-	10.3 km	-	48.6 km	67.7 km	-	-	-
GPT62	Pampa Guanaco	60.6 km	-	-	-	-	15.5 km	-	31.2 km	13.9 km	-	-	-
GPT63	Lago Fagnano	86.5 km	-	-	-	-	9.5 km	1.9 km	75.1 km	-	-	-	-

Packrafting Route Composition												
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT64	Bahia Yendegaia	65.5 km	7.9 km	-	-	15.7 km	22.6 km	-	19.3 km	-	-	(16.4 km)	(38.3 km)
GPT65H	Ferry Puerto Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(574.6 km)	-	-
GPT65P	Canal Beagle	41.8 km	-	-	41.8 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(41.8 km)
GPT66	Puerto Navarino	51.9 km	-	-	51.9 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GPT67	Dientes de Navarino	87.7 km	0.1 km	14.8 km	-	0.2 km	6.3 km	56.2 km	10.1 km	-	-	-	(21.3 km)
GPT68	Tolhuin	328.5 km	185.3 km	33.3 km	-	-	23.0 km	-	82.0 km	5.0 km	-	-	(32.2 km)
GPT69	Ushuaia	152.6 km	-	-	-	-	14.3 km	50.9 km	69.6 km	17.9 km	-	(1.1 km)	-
GPT70	Alto Rio Futaleufu	39.6 km	25.8 km	-	-	-	0.1 km	-	0.1 km	13.6 km	-	-	-
GPT71	Espolon	120.1 km	-	12.5 km	-	-	-	36.7 km	51.3 km	19.7 km	-	-	-
GPT72	Bajo Rio Futaleufu	99.9 km	-	-	-	-	-	21.4 km	43.2 km	35.2 km	(0.1 km)	(7.0 km)	-
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	47.0 km	-	34.7 km	-	-	-	-	-	12.3 km	-	-	-
GPT74P	Rio Yelcho	51.4 km	47.1 km	-	4.2 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GPT75P	Rio Frio	80.8 km	75.9 km	-	-	-	0.7 km	-	-	4.2 km	-	-	-
GPT76	PN Pumalin Sur	77.0 km	-	-	77.0 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GPT77	PN Pumalin Norte	102.1 km	-	-	91.3 km	-	-	0.3 km	2.5 km	8.1 km	-	-	-
GPT78H	Volcan Yates	82.8 km	-	-	-	-	2.1 km	28.4 km	22.2 km	30.2 km	-	-	-
GPT78P	Estuario Reloncavi	126.0 km	-	-	125.3 km	-	-	-	0.7 km	-	-	-	-
GPT80P	Glaciar Exploradores	109.1 km	52.1 km	17.5 km	-	12.9 km	11.7 km	10.3 km	4.5 km	-	-	(24.1 km)	(76.0 km)
GPT81P	Glaciar Leones	116.3 km	24.7 km	58.4 km	-	-	0.2 km	23.7 km	9.3 km	-	-	-	-
GPT82P	Aysen Glacier Trail	139.9 km	23.4 km	32.5 km	-	6.8 km	17.0 km	22.4 km	30.1 km	7.7 km	(0.2 km)	(23.1 km)	(24.5 km)
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	161.1 km	7.3 km	11.9 km	47.7 km	-	55.3 km	14.3 km	20.3 km	4.3 km	-	-	(114.8 km)

Packrafting Route Composition												
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	312.2 km	48.1 km	8.8 km	208.8 km	11.4 km	35.2 km	-	-	-	-	(18.9 km)	(279.6 km)
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	92.2 km	20.5 km	1.4 km	60.6 km	-	2.5 km	7.2 km	-	-	-	-	(92.2 km)

Table 178: Packrafting Route Composition

3.11.11 Track Nomenclature and Display

Track Classifications and Nomenclature							
Section Code Letter		**Prefix**		**Track Terrain**		**Track Reliability and Direction**	
-	Hiking and Packrafting	EXP	Exploration Route	TL	Horse or Hiking Trail	V	Verified Route
H	Primarily Hiking	**Track Relevance**		MR	Minor Road	A	Approximate Route
P	Only Packrafting	RR	Regular Route	PR	Primary or Paved Road	I	Investigation Route
N	Northbound	RH	Regular Hiking Route	CC	Cross Country	1	One-Way Route
S	Southbound	RP	Regular Packrafting Route	BB	Bush Bashing	2	Two-Way Route
		OH	Optional Hiking Route	FY	Ferry or Boat Transfer		
		OP	Optional Packrafting Route	RI	River Packrafting		
Link to	Track Numbering			LK	Lake Packrafting		
Link to	Track Display in Google Earth and on the GPS			FJ	Fjord Packrafting		

Table 179: Track Classification and Nomenclature